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(54) **NANBV diagnostics and vaccines**

NANBV-Diagnostika und Vakzine

Diagnostics et vaccins de NANBV

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Description

Technical Field

5 **[0001]** The invention relates to materials and methodologies for managing the spread of non-A, non-B hepatitis virus (NANBV) infection. More specifically, it relates to polynucleotides derived from the genome of an etiologic agent of NANBH, hepatitis C virus (HCV), to polypeptides encoded therein, and to antibodies directed to the polypeptides. These reagents are useful as screening agents for HCV and its infection, and as protective agents against the disease.

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[0003] EPO Pub. No. 318,216

PCT Pub. No. WO 89/04669

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U.S. Patent No. 4,427,783

U.S. Patent No. 4,444,887

U.S. Patent No. 4,466,917

U.S. Patent No. 4,472,500

55 U.S. Patent No. 4,491,632

U.S. Patent No. 4,493,890

Background Art

[0004] Non-A, Non-B hepatitis (NANBH) is a transmissible disease or family of diseases that are believed to be viral-induced, and that are distinguishable from other forms of viral-associated liver diseases, including that caused by the known hepatitis viruses, i.e., hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and delta hepatitis virus (HDV), as well as the hepatitis induced by cytomegalovirus (CMV) or Epstein-Barr virus (EBV). NANBH was first identified in transfused individuals. Transmission from man to chimpanzee and serial passage in chimpanzees provided evidence that NANBH is due to a transmissible infectious agent or agents.

[0005] Epidemiologic evidence is suggestive that there may be three types of NANBH: the water-borne epidemic type; the blood or needle associated type; and the sporadically occurring (community acquired) type. However, the number of agents which may be the causative of NANBH are unknown.

[0006] Clinical diagnosis and identification of NANBH has been accomplished primarily by exclusion of other viral markers. Among the methods used to detect putative NANBV antigens and antibodies are agar-gel diffusion, counter-immunoelectrophoresis, immunofluorescence microscopy, immune electron microscopy, radioimmunoassay, and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. However, none of these assays has proved to be sufficiently sensitive, specific, and reproducible to be used as a diagnostic test for NANBH.

[0007] Previously there was neither clarity nor agreement as to the identity or specificity of the antigen antibody systems associated with agents of NANBH. This was due, at least in part, to the prior or co-infection of HBV with NANBV in individuals, and to the known complexity of the soluble and particulate antigens associated with HBV, as well as to the integration of HBV DNA into the genome of liver cells. In addition, there is the possibility that NANBH is caused by more than one infectious agent, as well as the possibility that NANBH has been mis-diagnosed. Moreover, it is unclear what the serological assays detect in the serum of patients with NANBH. It has been postulated that the agar-gel diffusion and counterimmunoelectrophoresis assays detect autoimmune responses or nonspecific protein interactions that sometimes occur between serum specimens, and that they do not represent specific NANBV antigen-antibody reactions. The immunofluorescence, and enzyme-linked immunosorbent, and radioimmunoassays appear to detect low levels of a rheumatoid-factor-like material that is frequently present in the serum of patients with NANBH as well as in patients with other hepatic and nonhepatic diseases. Some of the reactivity detected may represent antibody to host-determined cytoplasmic antigens.

[0008] There have been a number of candidate NANBV. See, for example the reviews by Prince (1983), Feinstone and Hoofnagle (1984), and Overby (1985, 1986, 1987) and the article by Iwarson (1987). However, there is no proof that any of these candidates represent the etiological agent of NANBH.

[0009] The demand for sensitive, specific methods for screening and identifying carriers of NANBV and NANBV contaminated blood or blood products is significant. Post-transfusion hepatitis (PTH) occurs in approximately 10% of transfused patients, and NANBH accounts for up to 90% of these cases. The major problem in this disease is the frequent progression to chronic liver damage (25-55%).

[0010] Patient care as well as the prevention of transmission of NANBH by blood and blood products or by close personal contact require reliable screening, diagnostic and prognostic tools to detect nucleic acids, antigens and antibodies related to NANBV. In addition, there is also a need for effective vaccines and immunotherapeutic therapeutic agents for the prevention and/or treatment of the disease.

[0011] Applicant discovered a new virus, the Hepatitis C virus (HCV), which has proven to be the major etiologic agent of blood-borne NANBH (BB-NANBH). Applicant's initial work, including a partial genomic sequence of the prototype HCV isolate, CDC/HCV1 (also called HCV1), is described in EPO Pub. No. 318,216 (published 31 May 1989) and PCT Pub. No. WO 89/04669 (published 1 June 1989). The disclosures of these patent applications, as well as any corresponding national patent applications, are incorporated herein by reference. These applications teach, inter alia, recombinant DNA methods of cloning and expressing HCV sequences, HCV polypeptides, HCV immunodiagnostic techniques, HCV probe diagnostic techniques, anti-HCV antibodies, and methods of isolating new HCV sequences, including sequences of new HCV isolates.

Disclosure of the Invention

[0012] The present invention is based, in part, on new HCV sequences and polypeptides that are not disclosed in EPO Pub. No. 318,216, or in the PCT Pub. No. WO 89/04669. Included within the invention is the application of these new sequences and polypeptides in, inter alia, immunodiagnostics, probe diagnostics, anti-HCV antibody production, PCR technology and recombinant DNA technology. Included within the invention, also, are new immunoassays based upon the immunogenicity of HCV polypeptides disclosed herein. The new subject matter claimed herein, while developed using techniques described in, for example EPO Pub. No. 318,216, has a priority date which antedates that publication, for any counterpart thereof. Thus, the invention provides novel compositions and methods useful for screening samples for HCV antigens and antibodies, and useful for treatment of HCV infections.

[0013] Accordingly, one aspect of the invention is based on characterisation of recombinant polynucleotides comprising sequences derived from HCV cDNA, wherein the HCV cDNA is in clone 13i, or clone 26j, or clone 59a, or clone 84a, or clone CA156e, or clone 167b, or clone pi14a, or clone CA216a, or clone CA290a, or clone ag30a, or clone 205a, or clone 18g, or clone 16jh, or wherein the HCV cDNA is of a sequence indicated by nucleotide numbers -319 to 1348 in Figure 17.

[0014] Another aspect of the invention is based on characterisation of purified polypeptides comprising an epitope encoded within HCV cDNA wherein the HCV cDNA is of a sequence indicated by nucleotide numbers -319 to 1348 in Figure 17.

[0015] Accordingly the present invention provides a polypeptide in substantially isolated form comprising a contiguous sequence from a Hepatitis C virus (HCV) polyprotein of at least 10 amino acids wherein said contiguous sequence is from amino acids 1 to 449 of an HCV polyprotein, wherein HCV is characterised by:

- a. positive stranded RNA genome;
- said genome comprising an open reading frame (ORF) encoding a polyprotein; and
- the entirety of the said encoded polyprotein having at least 40% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

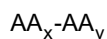
[0016] Preferably, the contiguous sequence is:

- a. HCV amino acids 1 to 84;
- b. HCV amino acids 9 to 177;
- c. an immunologically reactive fragment of (a) or (b) above.

[0017] The immunologically reactive fragment may be from amino acids 1 to 50, 35 to 45, 50 to 100, 40 to 90, 65 to 75, 80 to 90, 99 to 120, 95 to 110 or 100 to 150 of the HCV polyprotein.

[0018] Yet another aspect of the invention relates to immunogenic polypeptides produced by a cell transformed with a recombinant expression vector comprising an ORF of DNA derived from HCV cDNA, wherein the HCV cDNA is comprised of a sequence derived from the HCV cDNA sequence in clone CA279a, or clone CA74a, or clone 13i, or clone CA290a, or clone 33C or clone 40b, or clone 33b, or clone 25c, or clone 14c, or clone 8f, or clone 33f, or clone 33g, or clone 39c, or clone 15e, and wherein the ORF is operably linked to a control sequence compatible with a desired host.

[0019] Another aspect of the invention is a polypeptide wherein the contiguous sequence has the formula



wherein x and y designate amino acid numbers shown in Figure 17, and wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of AA1-AA35, AA1-AA50, AA1-AA84, AA9-AA177, AA1-AA10, AA5-AA20, AA20-AA25, AA35-AA45, AA50-AA100, AA40-AA90, AA45-AA65, AA65-AA75, AA80-AA90, AA99-AA120, AA95-AA110, AA105-AA120, AA100-AA150, AA150-AA200, AA155-AA170, AA190-AA210, AA200-AA250, AA220-AA240, AA245-AA265, AA250-AA300, AA290-AA330, AA290-305, AA300-AA350, AA310-AA330, AA350-AA400, AA380-AA395, AA405-AA495, AA400-AA450, AA405-AA415, AA415-AA425, AA425-AA435, AA437-AA582, AA440-AA460.

[0020] The invention further relates to polynucleotide probes for HCV, in particular probes comprised of an HCV sequence derived from an HCV cDNA sequence indicated by nucleotide numbers -319 to 1348 in Figure 17, or from the complement of the HCV cDNA sequence. Thus the invention provides a recombinant or purified viral polynucleotide which comprises an HCV genomic sequence or the complement thereof which is selectively hybridizable to nucleotides -319 to 1348 of the HCV genome or the complement thereof.

[0021] The invention also provides a kit for analysing samples for the presence of polynucleotides from HCV which kits comprise a polynucleotide probe of the invention in a suitable container.

[0022] Another aspect of the invention is a kit for analysing samples for the presence of an HCV antigen comprising an antibody which reacts immunologically with an HCV antigen of the invention, such as an antigen containing an epitope encoded within HCV cDNA which is of a sequence indicated by nucleotide numbers -319 to 1348 in Figure 17, or wherein the HCV cDNA is in clone 13i, or clone 26j, or clone 59a, or clone 84a, or clone CA156e, or clone 167b, or clone pi14a, or clone CA216a, or clone CA290a, or clone ag30a, or clone 205a, or clone 18g, or clone 16jh.

[0023] Yet another aspect of the invention is a kit for analysing samples for the presence of an HCV antibody comprising an antigenic polypeptide containing an HCV epitope of the invention such as an epitope encoded within HCV

cDNA which is of a sequence indicated by nucleotide numbers -319 to 1348 in Figure 17, or is in clone 13i, or clone 26j, or clone 59a, or clone 84a, or clone CA156e, or clone 167b, or clone pi14a, or clone CA 216a, or clone CA 290a, or clone ag30a, or clone 205a, or clone 18g, or clone 16jh.

[0024] Another aspect of the invention is a kit for analysing samples for the presence of an HCV antibody comprising an antigenic polypeptide of the invention such as polypeptide expressed from HCV cDNA in clone CA279a, or clone CA74a, or clone 13i, or clone CA290a, or clone 33C or clone 40b, or clone 33b, or clone 25c, or clone 14c, or clone 8f, or clone 33f, or clone 33g, or clone 39c, or clone 15e, wherein the antigenic polypeptide is present in a suitable container.

[0025] Still another aspect of the invention is a method for detecting HCV nucleic acids in a sample comprising:

(a) reacting nucleic acids of the sample with a polynucleotide probe for HCV, wherein the probe is comprised of an HCV sequence of the invention, wherein the reacting is under conditions which allow the formation of a polynucleotide duplex between the probe and the HCV nucleic acid from the sample; and (b) detecting a polynucleotide duplex which contains the probe, formed in step (a).

[0026] Yet another aspect of the invention is an immunoassay for detecting an HCV antigen comprising:

(a) incubating a sample suspected of containing an HCV antigen with an antibody directed against an HCV epitope encoded in HCV cDNA, wherein the HCV cDNA is of a sequence indicated by nucleotide numbers -319 to 1348 or 8659 to 8866 in Fig. 17, or is the sequence present in clone 13i, or clone 26j, or clone 59a, or clone 84a, or clone CA156e, or clone 167b, or clone pi14a, or clone CA216a, or clone CA290a, or clone ag30a, or clone 205a, or clone 18g, or clone 16jh, and wherein the incubating is under conditions which allow formation of an antigen-antibody complex; and (b) detecting an antibody-antigen complex formed in step (a) which contains the antibody.

[0027] Still another aspect of the invention is an immunoassay for detecting antibodies directed against an HCV antigen comprising:

(a) incubating a sample suspected of containing anti-HCV antibodies with an antigen polypeptide containing an epitope encoded in HCV cDNA, wherein the HCV cDNA is of a sequence indicated by nucleotide numbers -319 to 1348 or 8659 to 8866 in Fig. 17, or is the sequence present in clone 13i, or clone 26j, or clone 59a, or clone 84a, or clone CA156e, or clone 167b, or clone pi14a, or clone CA216a, or clone CA290a, or clone ag30a, or clone 205a, or clone 18g, or clone 16jh, and wherein the incubating is under conditions which allow formation of an antigen-antibody complex; and detecting an antibody-antigen complex formed in step (a) which contains the antigen polypeptide.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0028]

Figure 1 shows the sequence of HCV cDNA in clone 12f, and the amino acids encoded therein.

Figure 2 shows the HCV cDNA sequence in clone k9-1, and the amino acids encoded therein.

Figure 3 shows the sequence of clone 15e, and the amino acids encoded therein.

Figure 4 shows the nucleotide sequence of HCV cDNA in clone 13i, the amino acids encoded therein, and the sequences which overlap with clone 12f.

Figure 5 shows the nucleotide sequence of HCV cDNA in clone 26j, the amino acids encoded therein, and the sequences which overlap clone 13i.

Figure 6 shows the nucleotide sequence of HCV cDNA in clone CA59a, the amino acids encoded therein, and the sequences which overlap with clones 26j and K9-1.

Figure 7 shows the nucleotide sequence of HCV cDNA in clone CA84a, the amino acids encoded therein, and the sequences which overlap with clone CA59a.

Figure 8. shows the nucleotide sequence of HCV cDNA in clone CA156e, the amino acids encoded therein, and the sequences which overlap with CA84a.

Fig. 9 shows the nucleotide sequence of HCV cDNA in clone CA167b, the amino acids encoded therein, and the sequences which overlap CA156e.

Fig. 10 shows the nucleotide sequence of HCV cDNA in clone CA216a, the amino acids encoded therein, and the overlap with clone CA167b.

Fig. 11 shows the nucleotide sequence of HCV cDNA in clone CA290a, the amino acids encoded therein, and the overlap with clone CA216a.

Fig. 12 shows the nucleotide sequence of HCV cDNA in clone ag30a and the overlap with clone CA290a.

Fig. 13 shows the nucleotide sequence of HCV cDNA in clone CA205a, and the overlap with the HCV cDNA sequence in clone CA290a.

Fig. 14 shows the nucleotide sequence of HCV cDNA in clone 18g, and the overlap with the HCV cDNA sequence in clone ag30a.

Fig. 15 shows the nucleotide sequence of HCV cDNA in clone 16jh, the amino acids encoded therein, and the overlap of nucleotides with the HCV cDNA sequence in clone 15e.

Fig. 16 shows the ORF of HCV cDNA derived from clones pi14a, CA167b, CA156e, CA84a, CA59a, K9-1, 12f, 14i, 11b, 7f, 7e, 8h, 33c, 40b, 37b, 35, 36, 81, 32, 33b, 25c, 14c, 8f, 33f, 33g, 39c, 35f, 19g, 26g, and 15e.

Fig. 17 shows the sense strand of the compiled HCV cDNA sequence derived from the above-described clones and the compiled HCV cDNA sequence published in EPO Pub. No. 318,216. The clones from which the sequence was derived are b114a, 18g, ag30a, CA205a, CA290a, CA216a, pi14a, CA167b, CA156e, CA84a, CA59a, K9-1 (also called k9-1), 26j, 13i, 12f, 14i, 11b, 7f, 7e, 8h, 33c, 40b, 37b, 35, 36, 81, 32, 33b, 25c, 14c, 8f, 33f, 33g, 39c, 35f, 19g, 26g, 15e, b5a, and 16jh. In the figure the three horizontal dashes above the sequence indicate the position of the putative initiator methionine codon; the two vertical dashes indicate the first and last nucleotides of the published sequence. Also shown in the figure is the amino acid sequence of the putative polyprotein encoded in the HCV cDNA.

Fig. 18 is a diagram of the immunological colony screening method used in antigenic mapping studies.

Fig. 19 shows the hydrophobicity profiles of polyproteins encoded in HCV and in West Nile virus.

Fig. 20 is a tracing of the hydrophilicity/ hydrophobicity profile and of the antigenic index of the putative HCV polyprotein.

Fig. 21 shows the conserved co-linear peptides in HCV and Flaviviruses.

Modes for Carrying Out the Invention

I. Definitions

[0029] The term "hepatitis C virus" has been reserved by workers in the field for an heretofore unknown etiologic agent of NANBH. Accordingly, as used herein, "hepatitis C virus" (HCV) refers to an agent causative of NANBH, which was formerly referred to as NANBV and/or BB-NANBV. The terms HCV, NANBV, and BB-NANBV are used interchangeably herein. As an extension of this terminology, the disease caused by HCV, formerly called NANB hepatitis (NANBH), is called hepatitis C. The terms NANBH and hepatitis C may be used interchangeably herein.

[0030] The term "HCV", as used herein, denotes a viral species of which pathogenic strains cause NANBH, and attenuated strains or defective interfering particles derived therefrom. As shown infra., the HCV genome is comprised of RNA. It is known that RNA containing viruses have relatively high rates of spontaneous mutation, i.e., reportedly on the order of 10^{-3} to 10^{-4} per incorporated nucleotide (Fields & Knipe (1986)). Therefore, there are multiple strains, which may be virulent or avirulent, within the HCV species described infra. The compositions and methods described herein, enable the propagation, identification, detection, and isolation of the various HCV strains or isolates. Moreover, the disclosure herein allows the preparation of diagnostics and vaccines for the various strains, as well as compositions and methods that have utility in screening procedures for anti-viral agents for pharmacologic use, such as agents that inhibit replication of HCV.

[0031] The information provided herein, although derived from the prototype strain or isolate of HCV, hereinafter referred to as CDC/HCV1 (also called HCV1), is sufficient to allow a viral taxonomist to identify other strains which fall within the species. The information provided herein allows the belief that HCV is a Flavi-like virus. The morphology and composition of Flavivirus particles are known, and are discussed in Brinton (1986). Generally, with respect to morphology, Flaviviruses contain a central nucleocapsid surrounded by a lipid bilayer. Virions are spherical and have a diameter of about 40-50 nm. Their cores are about 25-30 nm in diameter. Along the outer surface of the virion envelope are projections that are about 5-10 nm long with terminal knobs about 2 nm in diameter.

[0032] Different strains or isolates of HCV are expected to contain variations at the amino acid and nucleic acids compared with the prototype isolate, HCV1. Many isolates are expected to show much (i.e. more than about 40%) homology in the total amino acid sequence compared with HCV1. However, it may also be found that other less homologous HCV isolates. These would be defined as HCV strains according to various criteria such as an ORF of approximately 9,000 nucleotides to approximately 12,000 nucleotides, encoding a polyprotein similar in size to that of HCV1, an encoded polyprotein of similar hydrophobic and antigenic character to that of HCV1, and the presence of co-linear peptide sequences that are conserved with HCV1. In addition, the genome would be a positive-stranded RNA.

[0033] HCV encodes at least one epitope which is immunologically identifiable with an epitope in the HCV genome from which the cDNAs described herein are derived; preferably the epitope is contained an amino acid sequence described herein. The epitope is unique to HCV when compared to other known Flaviviruses. The uniqueness of the

epitope may be determined by its immunological reactivity with anti-HCV antibodies and lack of immunological reactivity with antibodies to other Flavivirus species. Methods for determining immunological reactivity are known in the art, for example, by radioimmunoassay, by Elisa assay, by hemagglutination, and several examples of suitable techniques for assays are provided herein.

[0034] In addition to the above, the following parameters of nucleic acid homology and amino acid homology are applicable, either alone or in combination, in identifying a strain or isolate as HCV. Since HCV strains and isolates are evolutionarily related, it is expected that the overall homology of the genomes at the nucleotide level probably will be about 40% or greater, probably about 60% or greater, and even more probably about 80% or greater; and in addition that there will be corresponding contiguous sequences of at least about 13 nucleotides. The correspondence between the putative HCV strain genomic sequence and the CDC/HCV1 cDNA sequence can be determined by techniques known in the art. For example, they can be determined by a direct comparison of the sequence information of the polynucleotide from the putative HCV, and the HCV cDNA sequence(s) described herein. For example, also, they can be determined by hybridization of the polynucleotides under conditions which form stable duplexes between homologous regions (for example, those which would be used prior to S₁ digestion), followed by digestion with single stranded specific nuclease(s), followed by size determination of the digested fragments.

[0035] Because of the evolutionary relationship of the strains or isolates of HCV, putative HCV strains or isolates are identifiable by their homology at the polypeptide level. Generally, HCV strains or isolates are expected to be more than 40% homologous, probably more than about 70% homologous, and even more probably more than about 80% homologous, and some may even be more than about 90% homologous at the polypeptide level. The techniques for determining amino acid sequence homology are known in the art. For example, the amino acid sequence may be determined directly and compared to the sequences provided herein. Alternatively the nucleotide sequence of the genomic material of the putative HCV may be determined (usually via a cDNA intermediate), the amino acid sequence encoded therein can be determined, and the corresponding regions compared.

[0036] As used herein, a polynucleotide "derived from" a designated sequence refers to a polynucleotide sequence which is comprised of a sequence of at least 10-12 nucleotides, and preferably at least about 15-20 nucleotides corresponding to a region of the designated nucleotide sequence. "Corresponding" means homologous to or complementary to the designated sequence. Preferably, the sequence of the region from which the polynucleotide is derived is homologous to or complementary to a sequence which is unique to an HCV genome. Whether or not a sequence is unique to the HCV genome can be determined by techniques known to those of skill in the art. For example, the sequence can be compared to sequences in databanks, e.g., Genbank, to determine whether it is present in the uninfected host or other organisms. The sequence can also be compared to the known sequences of other viral agents, including those which are known to induce hepatitis, e.g., HAV, HBV, and HDV, and to other members of the Flaviviridae. The correspondence or non-correspondence of the derived sequence to other sequences can also be determined by hybridization under the appropriate stringency conditions. Hybridization techniques for determining the complementarity of nucleic acid sequences are known in the art, and are discussed infra. See also, for example, Maniatis et al. (1982). In addition, mismatches of duplex polynucleotides formed by hybridization can be determined by known techniques, including for example, digestion with a nuclease such as S1 that specifically digests single-stranded areas in duplex polynucleotides. Regions from which typical DNA sequences may be "derived" include but are not limited to, for example, regions encoding specific epitopes, as well as non-transcribed and/or non-translated regions.

[0037] The derived polynucleotide is not necessarily physically derived from the nucleotide sequence shown, but may be generated in any manner, including for example, chemical synthesis or DNA replication or reverse transcription or transcription. In addition, combinations of regions corresponding to that of the designated sequence may be modified in ways known in the art to be consistent with an intended use.

[0038] Similarly, a polypeptide or amino acid sequence "derived from" a designated nucleic acid sequence refers to a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence identical to that of a polypeptide encoded in the sequence, or a portion thereof wherein the portion consists of at least 10 amino acids, and even more preferably at least 11-15 amino acids, or which is immunologically identifiable with a polypeptide encoded in the sequence.

[0039] A recombinant or derived polypeptide is not necessarily translated from a designated nucleic acid sequence, for example, the HCV cDNA sequences described herein, or from an HCV genome; it may be generated in any manner, including for example, chemical synthesis, or expression of a recombinant expression system, or isolation from mutated HCV. A recombinant or derived polypeptide may include one or more analogs of amino acids or unnatural amino acids in its sequence. Methods of inserting analogs of amino acids into a sequence are known in the art. It also may include one or more labels, which are known to those of skill in the art.

[0040] The term "recombinant polynucleotide" as used herein intends a polynucleotide of genomic, cDNA, semisynthetic, or synthetic origin which, by virtue of its origin or manipulation which: (1) is not associated with all or a portion of a polynucleotide with which it is associated in nature, (2) is linked to a polynucleotide other than that to which it is linked in nature, or (3) does not occur in nature.

[0041] The term "polynucleotide" as used herein refers to a polymeric form of nucleotides of any length, either ribo-

nucleotides or deoxyribonucleotides. This term refers only to the primary structure of the molecule. Thus, this term includes double- and single-stranded DNA, as well as double- and single stranded RNA. It also includes known types of modifications, for example, labels which are known in the art, methylation, "caps", substitution of one or more of the naturally occurring nucleotides with an analog, internucleotide modifications such as, for example, those with uncharged linkages (e.g., methyl phosphonates, phosphotriesters, phosphoamidates, carbamates, etc.) and with charged linkages (e.g., phosphorothioates, phosphorodithioates, etc.), those containing pendant moieties, such as, for example proteins (including for e.g., nucleases, toxins, antibodies, signal peptides, poly-L-lysine, etc.), those with intercalators (e.g., acridine, psoralen, etc.), those containing chelators (e.g., metals, radioactive metals, boron, oxidative metals, etc.), those containing alkylators, those with modified linkages (e.g., alpha anomeric nucleic acids, etc.), as well as unmodified forms of the polynucleotide.

[0042] "Recombinant host cells", "host cells", "cells", "cell lines", "cell cultures", and other such terms denoting microorganisms or higher eukaryotic cell lines cultured as unicellular entities refer to cells which can be, or have been, used as recipients for recombinant vector or other transfer DNA, and include the progeny of the original cell which has been transfected. It is understood that the progeny of a single parental cell may not necessarily be completely identical in morphology or in genomic or total DNA complement as the original parent, due to natural, accidental, or deliberate mutation.

[0043] A "replicon" is any genetic element, e.g., a plasmid, a chromosome, a virus, a cosmid, etc. that behaves as an autonomous unit of polynucleotide replication within a cell; i.e., capable of replication under its own control.

[0044] A "vector" is a replicon in which another polynucleotide segment is attached, so as to bring about the replication and/or expression of the attached segment.

[0045] "Control sequence" refers to polynucleotide sequences which are necessary to effect the expression of coding sequences to which they are ligated. The nature of such control sequences differs depending upon the host organism; in prokaryotes, such control sequences generally include promoter, ribosomal binding site, and terminators; in eukaryotes, generally, such control sequences include promoters, terminators and, in some instances, enhancers. The term "control sequences" is intended to include, at a minimum, all components whose presence is necessary for expression, and may also include additional components whose presence is advantageous, for example, leader sequences.

[0046] "Operably linked" refers to a juxtaposition wherein the components so described are in a relationship permitting them to function in their intended manner. A control sequence "operably linked" to a coding sequence is ligated in such a way that expression of the coding sequence is achieved under conditions compatible with the control sequences.

[0047] An "open reading frame" (ORF) is a region of a polynucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide; this region may represent a portion of a coding sequence or a total coding sequence.

[0048] A "coding sequence" is a polynucleotide sequence which is transcribed into mRNA and/or translated into a polypeptide when placed under the control of appropriate regulatory sequences. The boundaries of the coding sequence are determined by a translation start codon at the 5'-terminus and a translation stop codon at the 3'-terminus. A coding sequence can include, but is not limited to mRNA, cDNA, and recombinant polynucleotide sequences.

[0049] "Immunologically identifiable with/as" refers to the presence of epitope(s) and polypeptides(s) which are also present in the designated polypeptide(s), usually HCV proteins. Immunological identity may be determined by antibody binding and/or competition in binding; these techniques are known to those of average skill in the art, and are also illustrated infra.

[0050] As used herein, "epitope" refers to an antigenic determinant of a polypeptide; an epitope could comprise 3 amino acids in a spatial conformation which is unique to the epitope, generally an epitope consists of at least 5 such amino acids, and more usually, consists of at least 8-10 such amino acids. Methods of determining the spatial conformation of amino acids are known in the art, and include, for example, x-ray crystallography and 2-dimensional nuclear magnetic resonance.

[0051] A polypeptide is "immunologically reactive" with an antibody when it binds to an antibody due to antibody recognition of a specific epitope contained within the polypeptide. Immunological reactivity may be determined by antibody binding, more particularly by the kinetics of antibody binding, and/or by competition in binding using as competitor(s) a known polypeptide(s) containing an epitope against which the antibody is directed. The techniques for determining whether a polypeptide is immunologically reactive with an antibody are known in the art.

[0052] As used herein, the term "immunogenic polypeptide" is a polypeptide that elicits a cellular and/or humoral response, whether alone or linked to a carrier in the presence or absence of an adjuvant.

[0053] The term "polypeptide" refers to a polymer of amino acids and does not refer to a specific length of the product; thus, peptides, oligopeptides, and proteins are included within the definition of polypeptide. This term also does not refer to or exclude post-expression modifications of the polypeptide, for example, glycosylations, acetylations, phosphorylations and the like. Included within the definition are, for example, polypeptides containing one or more analogs of an amino acid (including, for example, unnatural amino acids, etc.), polypeptides with substituted linkages, as well as other modifications known in the art, both naturally occurring and non-naturally occurring.

[0054] "Transformation", as used herein, refers to the insertion of an exogenous polynucleotide into a host cell,

irrespective of the method used for the insertion, for example, direct uptake, transduction, f-mating or electroporation. The exogenous polynucleotide may be maintained as a non-integrated vector, for example, a plasmid, or alternatively, may be integrated into the host genome.

[0055] "Treatment" as used herein refers to prophylaxis and/or therapy.

[0056] An "individual", as used herein, refers to vertebrates, particularly members of the mammalian species, and includes but is not limited to domestic animals, sports animals, and primates, including humans.

[0057] As used herein, the "sense strand" of a nucleic acid contains the sequence that has sequence homology to that of mRNA. The "anti-sense strand" contains a sequence which is complementary to that of the "sense strand".

[0058] As used herein, a "positive stranded genome" of a virus is one in which the genome, whether RNA or DNA, is single-stranded and which encodes a viral polypeptide(s). Examples of positive stranded RNA viruses include Togaviridae, Coronaviridae, Retroviridae, Picornaviridae, and Caliciviridae. Included also, are the Flaviviridae, which were formerly classified as Togaviridae. See Fields & Knipe (1986).

[0059] As used herein, "antibody-containing body component" refers to a component of an individual's body which is a source of the antibodies of interest. Antibody containing body components are known in the art, and include but are not limited to, for example, plasma, serum, spinal fluid, lymph fluid, the external sections of the respiratory, intestinal, and genitourinary tracts, tears, saliva, milk, white blood cells, and myelomas.

[0060] As used herein, "purified HCV" refers to a preparation of HCV which has been isolated from the cellular constituents with which the virus is normally associated, and from other types of viruses which may be present in the infected tissue. The techniques for isolating viruses are known to those of skill in the art, and include, for example, centrifugation and affinity chromatography; a method of preparing purified HCV is discussed infra.

[0061] The term "HCV particles" as used herein include entire virion as well as particles which are intermediates in virion formation. HCV particles generally have one or more HCV proteins associated with the HCV nucleic acid.

[0062] As used herein, the term "probe" refers to a polynucleotide which forms a hybrid structure with a sequence in a target region, due to complementarity of at least one sequence in the probe with a sequence in the target region. The probe, however, does not contain a sequence complementary to sequence(s) used to prime the polymerase chain reaction.

[0063] As used herein, the term "target region" refers to a region of the nucleic acid which is to be amplified and/or detected.

[0064] As used herein, the term "viral RNA", which includes HCV RNA, refers to RNA from the viral genome, fragments thereof, transcripts thereof, and mutant sequences derived therefrom.

[0065] As used herein, a "biological sample" refers to a sample of tissue or fluid isolated from an individual, including but not limited to, for example, plasma, serum, spinal fluid, lymph fluid, the external sections of the skin, respiratory, intestinal, and genitourinary tracts, tears, saliva, milk, blood cells, tumors, organs, and also samples of *in vitro* cell culture constituents (including but not limited to conditioned medium resulting from the growth of cells in cell culture medium, putatively virally infected cells, recombinant cells, and cell components).

II. Description of the Invention

[0066] The practice of the present invention will employ, unless otherwise indicated, conventional techniques of molecular biology, microbiology, recombinant DNA, and immunology, which are within the skill of the art. Such techniques are explained fully in the literature. See e.g., Maniatis, Fitch & Sambrook, MOLECULAR CLONING; A LABORATORY MANUAL (1982); DNA CLONING, VOLUMES I AND II (D.N Glover ed. 1985); OLIGONUCLEOTIDE SYNTHESIS (M.J. Gait ed, 1984); NUCLEIC ACID HYBRIDIZATION (B.D. Hames & S.J. Higgins eds. 1984); TRANSCRIPTION AND TRANSLATION (B.D. Hames & S.J. Higgins eds. 1984); ANIMAL CELL CULTURE (R.I. Freshney ed. 1986); IMMOBILIZED CELLS AND ENZYMES (IRL Press, 1986); B. Perbal, A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO MOLECULAR CLONING (1984); the series, METHODS IN ENZYMOLOGY (Academic Press, Inc.); GENE TRANSFER VECTORS FOR MAMMALIAN CELLS (J.H. Miller and M.P. Calos eds. 1987, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory), Methods in Enzymology Vol. 154 and Vol. 155 (Wu and Grossman, and Wu, eds., respectively), Mayer and Walker, eds. (1987), IMMUNOCHEMICAL METHODS IN CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (Academic Press, London), Scopes, (1987), PROTEIN PURIFICATION: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE, Second Edition (Springer-Verlag, N.Y.), and HANDBOOK OF EXPERIMENTAL IMMUNOLOGY, VOLUMES I-IV (D.M. Weir and C. C. Blackwell eds 1986). All patents, patent applications, and publications mentioned herein, both supra and infra, are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0067] The useful materials and processes of the present invention are made possible by the provision of a family of nucleotide sequences isolated from cDNA libraries which contain HCV cDNA sequences. These cDNA libraries were derived from nucleic acid sequences present in the plasma of an HCV-infected chimpanzee. The construction of one of these libraries, the "c" library (ATCC No. 40394), was reported in EPO Pub. No. 318,216. Several of the clones containing HCV cDNA reported herein were obtained from the "c" library. Although other clones reported herein were obtained from other HCV cDNA libraries, the presence of clones containing the sequences in the "c" library was con-

firmed. As discussed in EPO Pub. No. 318,216, the family of HCV cDNA sequences isolated from the "c" library are not of human or chimpanzee origin, and show no significant homology to sequences contained within the HBV genome.

[0068] The availability of the HCV cDNAs described herein permits the construction of polynucleotide probes which are reagents useful for detecting viral polynucleotides in biological samples, including donated blood. For example, from the sequences it is possible to synthesize DNA oligomers of about 8-10 nucleotides, or larger, which are useful as hybridization probes to detect the presence of HCV RNA in, for example, donated blood, sera of subjects suspected of harboring the virus, or cell culture systems in which the virus is replicating. In addition, the cDNA sequences also allow the design and production of HCV specific polypeptides which are useful as diagnostic reagents for the presence of antibodies raised during HCV infection. Antibodies to purified polypeptides derived from the cDNAs may also be used to detect viral antigens in biological samples, including, for example, donated blood samples, sera from patients with NANBH, and in tissue culture systems being used for HCV replication. Moreover, the immunogenic polypeptides disclosed herein, which are encoded in portions of the ORF of HCV cDNA shown in Fig. 17, are also useful for HCV screening, diagnosis, and treatment, and for raising antibodies which are also useful for these purposes.

[0069] In addition, the novel cDNA sequences described herein enable further characterization of the HCV genome. Polynucleotide probes and primers derived from these sequences may be used to amplify sequences present in cDNA libraries, and/or to screen cDNA libraries for additional overlapping cDNA sequences, which, in turn, may be used to obtain more overlapping sequences. As indicated infra. and in EPO Pub. No. 318,216, the genome of HCV appears to be RNA comprised primarily of a large open reading frame (ORF) which encodes a large polypeptide.

[0070] The HCV cDNA sequences provided herein, the polypeptides derived from these sequences, and the immunogenic polypeptides described herein, as well as antibodies directed against these polypeptides are also useful in the isolation and identification of the blood-borne NABV (BB-NANBV) agent(s). For example, antibodies directed against HCV epitopes contained in polypeptides derived from the cDNAs may be used in processes based upon affinity chromatography to isolate the virus. Alternatively, the antibodies may be used to identify viral particles isolated by other techniques. The viral antigens and the genomic material within the isolated viral particles may then be further characterized.

[0071] In addition to the above, the information provided infra allows the identification of additional HCV strains or isolates. The isolation and characterization of the additional HCV strains or isolates may be accomplished by isolating the nucleic acids from body components which contain viral particles and/or viral RNA, creating cDNA libraries using polynucleotide probes based on the HCV cDNA probes described infra., screening the libraries for clones containing HCV cDNA sequences described infra., and comparing the HCV cDNAs from the new isolates with the cDNAs described infra. The polypeptides encoded therein, or in the viral genome, may be monitored for immunological cross-reactivity utilizing the polypeptides and antibodies described supra. Strains or isolates which fit within the parameters of HCV, as described in the Definitions section, supra., are readily identifiable. Other methods for identifying HCV strains will be obvious to those of skill in the art, based upon the information provided herein.

Isolation of the HCV cDNA Sequences

[0072] The novel HCV cDNA sequences described infra. extend the sequence of the cDNA to the HCV genome reported in EPO Pub. No. 318,216. The sequences which are present in clones b114a, 18g, ag30a, CA205a, CA290a, CA216a, pi14a, CA167b, CA156e, CA84a, and CA59a lie upstream of the reported sequence, and when compiled, yield nucleotides nos. -319 to 1348 of the composite HCV cDNA sequence. (The negative number on a nucleotide indicates its distance upstream of the nucleotide which starts the putative initiator MET codon.) The composite HCV cDNA sequence which includes the sequences in the aforementioned clones is shown in Figure 17.

[0073] The novel HCV cDNAs described herein were isolated from a number of HCV cDNA libraries, including the "c" library present in lambda gt11 (ATCC No. 40394). The HCV cDNA libraries were constructed using pooled serum from a chimpanzee with a chronic HCV infection and containing a high titre of the virus, i.e. at least 10^6 chimp infectious doses/ml (CID/ml). The pooled serum was used to isolate viral particles; nucleic acids isolate from these particles was used as the template in the construction of cDNA libraries to the viral genome. The procedures for isolation of putative HCV particles and for constructing the "c" HCV cDNA library is described in EPO Pub. No. 318,216. Other methods for constructing HCV cDNA libraries are known in the art, and some of these methods are described infra., in the Examples. Isolation of the sequences was by screening the libraries using synthetic polynucleotide probes, the sequences of which were derived from the 5'-region and the 3'-region of the known HCV cDNA sequence. The description of the method to retrieve the cDNA sequences is mostly of historical interest. The resultant sequences (and their complements) are provided herein, and the sequences, or any portion thereof, could be prepared using synthetic methods, or by a combination of synthetic methods with retrieval of partial sequences using methods similar to those described herein.

Preparation of Viral Polypeptides and Fragments

[0074] The availability of HCV cDNA sequences, or nucleotide sequences derived therefrom (including segments and modifications of the sequence), permits the construction of expression vectors encoding antigenically active regions of the polypeptide encoded in either strand. These antigenically active regions may be derived from coat or envelope antigens or from core antigens, or from antigens which are non-structural including, for example, polynucleotide binding proteins, polynucleotide polymerase(s), and other viral proteins required for the replication and/or assembly of the virus particle. Fragments encoding the desired polypeptides are derived from the cDNA clones using conventional restriction digestion or by synthetic methods, and are ligated into vectors which may, for example, contain portions of fusion sequences such as beta-galactosidase or superoxide dismutase (SOD), preferably SOD. Methods and vectors which are useful for the production of polypeptides which contain fusion sequences of SOD are described in European Patent Office Publication number 0196056, published October 1, 1986. vectors for the expression of fusion polypeptides of SOD and HCV polypeptides encoded in a number of HCV clones are described infra., in the Examples. Any desired portion of the HCV cDNA containing an open reading frame, in either sense strand, can be obtained as a recombinant polypeptide, such as a mature or fusion protein; alternatively, a polypeptide encoded in the cDNA can be provided by chemical synthesis.

[0075] The DNA encoding the desired polypeptide, whether in fused or mature form, and whether or not containing a signal sequence to permit secretion, may be ligated into expression vectors suitable for any convenient host. Both eukaryotic and prokaryotic host systems are presently used in forming recombinant polypeptides, and a summary of some of the more common control systems and host cell lines is given infra. The polypeptide is then isolated from lysed cells or from the culture medium and purified to the extent needed for its intended use. Purification may be by techniques known in the art, for example, differential extraction, salt fractionation, chromatography on ion exchange resins, affinity chromatography, centrifugation, and the like. See, for example, Methods in Enzymology for a variety of methods for purifying proteins. Such polypeptides can be used as diagnostics, or those which give rise to neutralizing antibodies may be formulated into vaccines. Antibodies raised against these polypeptides can also be used as diagnostics, or for passive immunotherapy. In addition, as discussed infra., antibodies to these polypeptides are useful for isolating and identifying HCV particles.

Preparation of Antigenic Polypeptides and Conjugation with Carrier

[0076] An antigenic region of a polypeptide is generally relatively small--typically 8 to 10 amino acids or less in length. Fragments of as few as 5 amino acids may characterize an antigenic region. These segments may correspond to regions of HCV antigen. Accordingly, using the cDNAs of HCV as a basis, DNAs encoding short segments of HCV polypeptides can be expressed recombinantly either as fusion proteins, or as isolated polypeptides. In addition, short amino acid sequences can be conveniently obtained by chemical synthesis. In instances wherein the synthesized polypeptide is correctly configured so as to provide the correct epitope, but is too small to be immunogenic, the polypeptide may be linked to a suitable carrier.

[0077] A number of techniques for obtaining such linkage are known in the art, including the formation of disulfide linkages using N-succinimidyl-3-(2-pyridylthio)propionate (SPDP) and succinimidyl 4-(N-maleimidomethyl)cyclohexane-1-carboxylate (SMCC) obtained from Pierce Company, Rockford, Illinois, (if the peptide lacks a sulfhydryl group, this can be provided by addition of a cysteine residue.) These reagents create a disulfide linkage between themselves and peptide cysteine residues on one protein and an amide linkage through the epsilon-amino on a lysine, or other free amino group in the other. A variety of such disulfide/amide-forming agents are known. See, for example, Immun. Rev. (1982) 62:185. Other bifunctional coupling agents form a thioether rather than a disulfide linkage. Many of these thio-ether-forming agents are commercially available and include reactive esters of 6-maleimidocaproic acid, 2-bromoacetic acid, 2-iodoacetic acid, 4-(N-maleimidomethyl)cyclohexane-1-carboxylic acid, and the like. The carboxyl groups can be activated by combining them with succinimide or 1-hydroxyl-2-nitro-4-sulfonic acid, sodium salt. Additional methods of coupling antigens employs the rotavirus/"binding peptide" system described in EPO Pub. No. 259,149, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. The foregoing list is not meant to be exhaustive, and modifications of the named compounds can clearly be used.

[0078] Any carrier may be used which does not itself induce the production of antibodies harmful to the host. Suitable carriers are typically large, slowly metabolized macromolecules such as proteins; polysaccharides, such as latex functionalized sepharose, agarose, cellulose, cellulose beads and the like; polymeric amino acids, such as polyglutamic acid, polylysine, and the like; amino acid copolymers; and inactive virus particles. Especially useful protein substrates are serum albumins, keyhole limpet hemocyanin, immunoglobulin molecules, thyroglobulin, ovalbumin, tetanus toxoid, and other proteins well known to those skilled in the art.

[0079] In addition to full-length viral proteins, polypeptides comprising truncated HCV amino acid sequences encoding at least one viral epitope are useful immunological reagents. For example, polypeptides comprising such truncated

sequences can be used as reagents in an immunoassay. These polypeptides also are candidate subunit antigens in compositions for antiserum production or vaccines. While these truncated sequences can be produced by various known treatments of native viral protein, it is generally preferred to make synthetic or recombinant polypeptides comprising an HCV sequence. Polypeptides comprising these truncated HCV sequences can be made up entirely of HCV sequences (one or more epitopes, either contiguous or noncontiguous), or HCV sequences and heterologous sequences in a fusion protein. Useful heterologous sequences include sequences that provide for secretion from a recombinant host, enhance the immunological reactivity of the HCV epitope(s), or facilitate the coupling of the polypeptide to an immunoassay support or a vaccine carrier. See, e.g., EPO Pub. No. 116,201; U.S. Pat. No. 4,722,840; EPO Pub. No. 259,149; U.S. Pat. No. 4,629,783, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[0080] The size of polypeptides comprising the truncated HCV sequences can vary widely, the minimum size being a sequence of sufficient size to provide an HCV epitope, while the maximum size is not critical. For convenience, the maximum size usually is not substantially greater than that required to provide the desired HCV epitopes and function (s) of the heterologous sequence, if any. Typically, the truncated HCV amino acid sequence will range from about 5 to about 100 amino acids in length. More typically, however, the HCV sequence will be a maximum of about 50 amino acids in length, preferably a maximum of about 30 amino acids. It is usually desirable to select HCV sequences of at least about 10, 12 or 15 amino acids, up to a maximum of about 20 or 25 amino acids.

[0081] Truncated HCV amino acid sequences comprising epitopes can be identified in a number of ways. For example, the entire viral protein sequence can be screened by preparing a series of short peptides that together span the entire protein sequence. An example of antigenic screening of the regions of the HCV polyprotein is shown infra. In addition, by starting with, for example, 100mer polypeptides, it would be routine to test each polypeptide for the presence of epitope(s) showing a desired reactivity, and then testing progressively smaller and overlapping fragments from an identified 100mer to map the epitope of interest. Screening such peptides in an immunoassay is within the skill of the art. It is also known to carry out a computer analysis of a protein sequence to identify potential epitopes, and then prepare oligopeptides comprising the identified regions for screening. Such a computer analysis of the HCV amino acid sequence is shown in Fig. 20, where the hydrophilic/ hydrophobic character is displayed above the antigen index. The amino acids are numbered from the starting MET (position 1) as shown in Fig. 17. It is appreciated by those of skill in the art that such computer analysis of antigenicity does not always identify an epitope that actually exists, and can also incorrectly identify a region of the protein as containing an epitope.

[0082] Examples of HCV amino acid sequences that may be useful, which are expressed from expression vectors comprised of clones 5-1-1, 81, CA74a, 35f, 279a, C36, C33b, CA290a, C8f, C12f, 14c, 15e, C25c, C33c, C33f, 33g, C39c, C40b, CA167b are described infra. Other examples of HCV amino acid sequences that may be useful as described herein are set forth below. It is to be understood that these peptides do not necessarily precisely map one epitope, and may also contain HCV sequence that is not immunogenic. These non-immunogenic portions of the sequence can be defined as described above using conventional techniques and deleted from the described sequences. Further, additional truncated HCV amino acid sequences that comprise an epitope or are immunogenic can be identified as described above. The following sequences are given by amino acid number (i.e., "AAn") where n is the amino acid number as shown in Fig. 17: AA1-AA25; AA1-AA50; AA1-AA84; AA9-AA177; AA1-AA10; AA5-AA20; AA35-AA45; AA50-AA100; AA40-AA90; AA45-AA65; AA65-AA75; AA80-90; AA99-AA120; AA95-AA110; AA105-AA120; AA100-AA150; AA150-AA200; AA155-AA170; AA190-AA210; AA200-AA250; AA220-AA240 AA245-AA265; AA250-AA300; AA290-AA330; AA290-305; AA300-AA350; AA310-AA330; AA350-AA400; AA380-AA395; AA405-AA495; AA400-AA450; AA405-AA415; AA415-AA425; AA425-AA435; AA437-AA582; AA440-AA460; The above HCV amino acid sequences can be prepared as discrete peptides or incorporated into a larger polypeptide, and may find use as described herein. Additional polypeptides comprising truncated HCV sequences are described in the examples.

[0083] The observed relationship of the putative polyproteins of HCV and the Flaviviruses allows some prediction of the putative domains of the HCV "non-structural" (NS) proteins. The locations of the individual NS proteins in the putative Flavivirus precursor polyprotein are fairly well-known. Moreover, these also coincide with observed gross fluctuations in the hydrophobicity profile of the polyprotein. It is established that NS5 of Flaviviruses encodes the virion polymerase, and that NS1 corresponds with a complement fixation antigen which has been shown to be an effective vaccine in animals. Recently, it has been shown that a flaviviral protease function resides in NS3. Due to the observed similarities between HCV and the Flaviviruses, described infra., deductions concerning the approximate locations of the corresponding protein domains and functions in the HCV polyprotein are possible. The expression of polypeptides containing these domains in a variety of recombinant host cells, including, for example, bacteria, yeast, insect, and vertebrate cells, should give rise to important immunological reagents which can be used for diagnosis, detection, and vaccines.

[0084] Although the non-structural protein regions of the putative polyproteins of the HCV isolate described herein and of Flaviviruses appear to have some similarity, there is less similarity between the putative structural regions which are towards the N-terminus. In this region, there is a greater divergence in sequence, and in addition, the hydrophobic

profile of the two regions show less similarity. This "divergence" begins in the N-terminal region of the putative NS1 domain in HCV, and extends to the presumed N-terminus. Nevertheless, it may still be possible to predict the approximate locations of the putative nucleocapsid (N-terminal basic domain) and E (generally hydrophobic) domains within the HCV polyprotein. In the Examples the predictions are based on the changes observed in the hydrophobic profile of the HCV polyprotein, and on a knowledge of the location and character of the flaviviral proteins. From these predictions it may be possible to identify approximate regions of the HCV polyprotein that could correspond with useful immunological reagents. For example, the E and NS1 proteins of Flaviviruses are known to have efficacy as protective vaccines. These regions, as well as some which are shown to be antigenic in the HCV isolate described herein, for example those within putative NS3, C, and NS5, etc., should also provide diagnostic reagents. Moreover, the location and expression of viral-encoded enzymes may also allow the evaluation of anti-viral enzyme inhibitors, i.e., for example, inhibitors which prevent enzyme activity by virtue of an interaction with the enzyme itself, or substances which may prevent expression of the enzyme, (for example, anti-sense RNA, or other drugs which interfere with expression).

Preparation of Hybrid Particle Immunogens Containing HCV Epitopes

[0085] The immunogenicity of the epitopes of HCV may also be enhanced by preparing them in mammalian or yeast systems fused with or assembled with particle-forming proteins such as, for example, that associated with hepatitis B surface antigen. Constructs wherein the NANBV epitope is linked directly to the particle-forming protein coding sequences produce hybrids which are immunogenic with respect to the HCV epitope. In addition, all of the vectors prepared include epitopes specific to HBV, having various degrees of immunogenicity, such as, for example, the pre-S peptide. Thus, particles constructed from particle forming protein which include HCV sequences are immunogenic with respect to HCV and HBV.

[0086] Hepatitis surface antigen (HBSAg) has been shown to be formed and assembled into particles in *S. cerevisiae* (Valenzuela et al. (1982)), as well as in, for example, mammalian cells (Valenzuela, P., et al. (1984)). The formation of such particles has been shown to enhance the immunogenicity of the monomer subunit. The constructs may also include the immunodominant epitope of HBSAg, comprising the 55 amino acids of the presurface (pre-S) region. Neurath et al. (1984). Constructs of the pre-S-HBSAg particle expressible in yeast are disclosed in EPO 174,444, published March 19, 1986; hybrids including heterologous viral sequences for yeast expression are disclosed in EPO 175,261, published March 26, 1966. These constructs may also be expressed in mammalian cells such as Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells using an SV40-dihydrofolate reductase vector (Michelle et al. (1984)).

[0087] In addition, portions of the particle-forming protein coding sequence may be replaced with codons encoding an HCV epitope. In this replacement, regions which are not required to mediate the aggregation of the units to form immunogenic particles in yeast or mammals can be deleted, thus eliminating additional HBV antigenic sites from competition with the HCV epitope.

Preparation of Vaccines

[0088] Vaccines may be prepared from one or more immunogenic polypeptides derived from HCV cDNA, including the cDNA sequences described in the Examples. The observed homology between HCV and Flaviviruses provides information concerning the polypeptides which may be most effective as vaccines, as well as the regions of the genome in which they are encoded. The general structure of the Flavivirus genome is discussed in Rice et al (1986). The flavivirus genomic RNA is believed to be the only virus-specific mRNA species, and it is translated into the three viral structural proteins, i.e., C, M, and E, as well as two large nonstructural proteins, NS4 and NS5, and a complex set of smaller nonstructural proteins. It is known that major neutralizing epitopes for Flaviviruses reside in the E (envelope) protein (Roehrig (1986)). Thus, vaccines may be comprised of recombinant polypeptides containing epitopes of HCV E. These polypeptides may be expressed in bacteria, yeast, or mammalian cells, or alternatively may be isolated from viral preparations. It is also anticipated that the other structural proteins may also contain epitopes which give rise to protective anti-HCV antibodies. Thus, polypeptides containing the epitopes of E, C, and M may also be used, whether singly or in combination, in HCV vaccines.

[0089] In addition to the above, it has been shown that immunization with NS1 (nonstructural protein 1), results in protection against yellow fever (Schlesinger et al (1986)). This is true even though the immunization does not give rise to neutralizing antibodies. Thus, particularly since this protein appears to be highly conserved among Flaviviruses, it is likely that HCV NS1 will also be protective against HCV infection. Moreover, it also shows that nonstructural proteins may provide protection against viral pathogenicity, even if they do not cause the production of neutralizing antibodies.

[0090] The information provided in the Examples concerning the immunogenicity of the polypeptides expressed from cloned HCV cDNAs which span the various regions of the HCV ORF also allows predictions concerning their use in vaccines.

[0091] In view of the above, multivalent vaccines against HCV may be comprised of one or more epitopes from one

or more structural proteins, and/or one or more epitopes from one or more nonstructural proteins. These vaccines may be comprised of, for example, recombinant HCV polypeptides and/or polypeptides isolated from the virions. In particular, vaccines are contemplated comprising one or more of the following HCV proteins, or subunit antigens derived therefrom: E, NS1, C, NS2, NS3, NS4 and NS5. Particularly preferred are vaccines comprising E and/or NS1, or subunits thereof.

[0092] The preparation of vaccines which contain an immunogenic polypeptide(s) as active ingredients, is known to one skilled in the art. Typically, such vaccines are prepared as injectables, either as liquid solutions or suspensions; solid forms suitable for solution in, or suspension in, liquid prior to injection may also be prepared. The preparation may also be emulsified, or the protein encapsulated in liposomes. The active immunogenic ingredients are often mixed with excipients which are pharmaceutically acceptable and compatible with the active ingredient. Suitable excipients are, for example, water, saline, dextrose, glycerol, ethanol, or the like and combinations thereof. In addition, if desired, the vaccine may contain minor amounts of auxiliary substances such as wetting or emulsifying agents, pH buffering agents, and/or adjuvants which enhance the effectiveness of the vaccine. Examples of adjuvants which may be effective include but are not limited to: aluminum hydroxide, N-acetyl-muramyl-L-threonyl-D-isoglutamine (thr-MDP), N-acetyl-nor-muramyl-L-alanyl-D-isoglutamine (CGP 11637, referred to as nor-MDP), N-acetylmuramyl-L-alanyl-D-isoglutaminyl-L-alanine-2-(1'-2'-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-3-hydroxyphosphoryloxy)-ethylamine (CGP 19835A, referred to as MTP-PE), and RIBI, which contains three components extracted from bacteria, monophosphoryl lipid A, trehalose dimycolate and cell wall skeleton (MPL+TDM+CWS) in a 2% squalene/Tween 80 emulsion. The effectiveness of an adjuvant may be determined by measuring the amount of antibodies directed against an immunogenic polypeptide containing an HCV antigenic sequence resulting from administration of this polypeptide in vaccines which are also comprised of the various adjuvants.

[0093] The vaccines are conventionally administered parenterally, by injection, for example, either subcutaneously or intramuscularly. Additional formulations which are suitable for other modes of administration include suppositories and, in some cases, oral formulations. For suppositories, traditional binders and carriers may include, for example, polyalkylene glycols or triglycerides; such suppositories may be formed from mixtures containing the active ingredient in the range of 0.5% to 10%, preferably 1%-2%. Oral formulations include such normally employed excipients as, for example, pharmaceutical grades of mannitol, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, sodium saccharine, cellulose, magnesium carbonate, and the like. These compositions take the form of solutions, suspensions, tablets, pills, capsules, sustained release formulations or powders and contain 10%-95% of active ingredient, preferably 25%-70%.

[0094] The proteins may be formulated into the vaccine as neutral or salt forms. Pharmaceutically acceptable salts include the acid addition salts (formed with free amino groups of the peptide) and which are formed with inorganic acids such as, for example, hydrochloric or phosphoric acids, or such organic acids such as acetic, oxalic, tartaric, maleic, and the like. Salts formed with the free carboxyl groups may also be derived from inorganic bases such as, for example, sodium, potassium, ammonium, calcium, or ferric hydroxides, and such organic bases as isopropylamine, trimethylamine, 2-ethylamino ethanol, histidine, procaine, and the like.

Dosage and Administration of Vaccines

[0095] The vaccines are administered in a manner compatible with the dosage formulation, and in such amount as will be prophylactically and/or therapeutically effective. The quantity to be administered, which is generally in the range of 5 micrograms to 250 micrograms of antigen per dose, depends on the subject to be treated, capacity of the subject's immune system to synthesize antibodies, and the degree of protection desired. Precise amounts of active ingredient required to be administered may depend on the judgment of the practitioner and may be peculiar to each subject.

[0096] The vaccine may be given in a single dose schedule, or preferably in a multiple dose schedule. A multiple dose schedule is one in which a primary course of vaccination may be with 1-10 separate doses, followed by other doses given at subsequent time intervals required to maintain and or reenforce the immune response, for example, at 1-4 months for a second dose, and if needed, a subsequent dose(s) after several months. The dosage regimen will also, at least in part, be determined by the need of the individual and be dependent upon the judgment of the practitioner.

[0097] In addition, the vaccine containing the immunogenic HCV antigen(s) may be administered in conjunction with other immunoregulatory agents, for example, immune globulins.

Preparation of Antibodies Against HCV Epitopes

[0098] The immunogenic polypeptides prepared as described above are used to produce antibodies, both polyclonal and monoclonal. If polyclonal antibodies are desired, a selected mammal (e.g., mouse, rabbit, goat, horse, etc.) is immunized with an immunogenic polypeptide bearing an HCV epitope(s). Serum from the immunized animal is collected and treated according to known procedures. If serum containing polyclonal antibodies to an HCV epitope contains antibodies to other antigens, the polyclonal antibodies can be purified by immunoaffinity chromatography. Techniques

for producing and processing polyclonal antisera are known in the art, see for example, Mayer and Walker (1987).

[0099] Alternatively, polyclonal antibodies may be isolated from a mammal which has been previously infected with HCV. An example of a method for purifying antibodies to HCV epitopes from serum from an infected individual, based upon affinity chromatography and utilizing a fusion polypeptide of SOD and a polypeptide encoded within cDNA clone 5-1-1, is presented in EPO Pub. No. 318,216.

[0100] Monoclonal antibodies directed against HCV epitopes can also be readily produced by one skilled in the art. The general methodology for making monoclonal antibodies by hybridomas is well known. Immortal antibody-producing cell lines can be created by cell fusion, and also by other techniques such as direct transformation of B lymphocytes with oncogenic DNA, or transfection with Epstein-Barr virus. See, e.g., M. Schreier et al. (1980); Hammerling et al. (1981); Kennett et al. (1980); see also, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,341,761; 4,399,121; 4,427,783; 4,444,887; 4,466,917; 4,472,500; 4,491,632; and 4,493,890. Panels of monoclonal antibodies produced against HCV epitopes can be screened for various properties; i.e., for isotype, epitope affinity, etc.

[0101] Antibodies, both monoclonal and polyclonal, which are directed against HCV epitopes are particularly useful in diagnosis, and those which are neutralizing are useful in passive immunotherapy. Monoclonal antibodies, in particular, may be used to raise anti-idiotypic antibodies.

[0102] Anti-idiotypic antibodies are immunoglobulins which carry an "internal image" of the antigen of the infectious agent against which protection is desired. See, for example, Nisonoff, A., et al. (1981) and Dreesman et al. (1985).

[0103] Techniques for raising anti-idiotypic antibodies are known in the art. See, for example, Grzych (1985), Mac-Namara et al. (1984), and Uytdehaag et al. (1985). These anti-idiotypic antibodies may also be useful for treatment and/or diagnosis of NANBH, as well as for an elucidation of the immunogenic regions of HCV antigens.

[0104] It would also be recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art that a variety of types of antibodies directed against HCV epitopes may be produced. As used herein, the term "antibody" refers to a polypeptide or group of polypeptides which are comprised of at least one antibody combining site. An "antibody combining site" or "binding domain" is formed from the folding of variable domains of an antibody molecule(s) to form three-dimensional binding spaces with an internal surface shape and charge distribution complementary to the features of an epitope of an antigen, which allows an immunological reaction with the antigen. An antibody combining site may be formed from a heavy and/or a light chain domain (VH and VL, respectively), which form hypervariable loops which contribute to antigen binding. The term "antibody" includes, for example, vertebrate antibodies, hybrid antibodies, chimeric antibodies, altered antibodies, univalent antibodies, the Fab proteins, and single domain antibodies.

[0105] A "single domain antibody" (dAb) is an antibody which is comprised of an VH domain, which reacts immunologically with a designated antigen. A dAb does not contain a VL domain, but may contain other antigen binding domains known to exist in antibodies, for example, the kappa and lambda domains. Methods for preparing dABs are known in the art. See, for example, Ward et al. (1989).

[0106] Antibodies may also be comprised of VH and VL domains, as well as other known antigen binding domains. Examples of these types of antibodies and methods for their preparation are known in the art (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 4,816,467, which is incorporated herein by reference), and include the following. For example, "vertebrate antibodies" refers to antibodies which are tetramers or aggregates thereof, comprising light and heavy chains which are usually aggregated in a "Y" configuration and which may or may not have covalent linkages between the chains. In vertebrate antibodies, the amino acid sequences of all the chains of a particular antibody are homologous with the chains found in one antibody produced by the lymphocyte which produces that antibody in situ, or in vitro (for example, in hybridomas). Vertebrate antibodies typically include native antibodies, for example, purified polyclonal antibodies and monoclonal antibodies. Examples of the methods for the preparation of these antibodies are described infra.

[0107] "Hybrid antibodies" are antibodies wherein one pair of heavy and light chains is homologous to those in a first antibody, while the other pair of heavy and light chains is homologous to those in a different second antibody. Typically, each of these two pairs will bind different epitopes, particularly on different antigens. This results in the property of "divalence", i.e., the ability to bind two antigens simultaneously. Such hybrids may also be formed using chimeric chains, as set forth below.

[0108] "Chimeric antibodies", are antibodies in which the heavy and/or light chains are fusion proteins. Typically the constant domain of the chains is from one particular species and/or class, and the variable domains are from a different species and/or class. Also included is any antibody in which either or both of the heavy or light chains are composed of combinations of sequences mimicking the sequences in antibodies of different sources, whether these sources be differing classes, or different species of origin, and whether or not the fusion point is at the variable/constant boundary. Thus, it is possible to produce antibodies in which neither the constant nor the variable region mimic known antibody sequences. It then becomes possible, for example, to construct antibodies whose variable region has a higher specific affinity for a particular antigen, or whose constant region can elicit enhanced complement fixation, or to make other improvements in properties possessed by a particular constant region.

[0109] Another example is "altered antibodies", which refers to antibodies in which the naturally occurring amino acid sequence in a vertebrate antibody has been varied. Utilizing recombinant DNA techniques, antibodies can be

redesigned to obtain desired characteristics. The possible variations are many, and range from the changing of one or more amino acids to the complete redesign of a region, for example, the constant region. Changes in the constant region, in general, to attain desired cellular process characteristics, e.g., changes in complement fixation, interaction with membranes, and other effector functions. Changes in the variable region may be made to alter antigen binding characteristics. The antibody may also be engineered to aid the specific delivery of a molecule or substance to a specific cell or tissue site. The desired alterations may be made by known techniques in molecular biology, e.g., recombinant techniques, site directed mutagenesis, etc.

[0110] Yet another example are "univalent antibodies", which are aggregates comprised of a heavy chain/light chain dimer bound to the Fc (i.e., constant) region of a second heavy chain. This type of antibody escapes antigenic modulation. See, e.g., Glennie et al. (1982).

[0111] Included also within the definition of antibodies are "Fab" fragments of antibodies. The "Fab" region refers to those portions of the heavy and light chains which are roughly equivalent, or analogous, to the sequences which comprise the branch portion of the heavy and light chains, and which have been shown to exhibit immunological binding to a specified antigen, but which lack the effector Fc portion. "Fab" includes aggregates of one heavy and one light chain (commonly known as Fab'), as well as tetramers containing the 2H and 2L chains (referred to as F(ab)₂), which are capable of selectively reacting with a designated antigen or antigen family. "Fab" antibodies may be divided into subsets analogous to those described above, i.e., "vertebrate Fab", "hybrid Fab", "chimeric Fab", and "altered Fab". Methods of producing "Fab" fragments of antibodies are known within the art and include, for example, proteolysis, and synthesis by recombinant techniques.

II.H. Diagnostic Oligonucleotide Probes and Kits

[0112] Using the disclosed portions of the isolated HCV cDNAs as a basis, oligomers of approximately 8 nucleotides or more can be prepared, either by excision or synthetically, which hybridize with the HCV genome and are useful in identification of the viral agent(s), further characterization of the viral genome(s), as well as in detection of the virus (es) in diseased individuals. The probes for HCV polynucleotides (natural or derived) are a length which allows the detection of unique viral sequences by hybridization. While 6-8 nucleotides may be a workable length, sequences of 10-12 nucleotides are preferred, and about 20 nucleotides appears optimal. Preferably, these sequences will derive from regions which lack heterogeneity. These probes can be prepared using routine methods, including automated oligonucleotide synthetic methods. Among useful probes, for example, are those derived from the newly isolated clones disclosed herein, as well as the various oligomers useful in probing cDNA libraries, set forth below. A complement to any unique portion of the HCV genome will be satisfactory. For use as probes, complete complementarity is desirable, though it may be unnecessary as the length of the fragment is increased.

[0113] For use of such probes as diagnostics, the biological sample to be analyzed, such as blood or serum, may be treated, if desired, to extract the nucleic acids contained therein. The resulting nucleic acid from the sample may be subjected to gel electrophoresis or other size separation techniques; alternatively, the nucleic acid sample may be dot blotted without size separation. The probes are then labeled. Suitable labels, and methods for labeling probes are known in the art, and include, for example, radioactive labels incorporated by nick translation or kinasing, biotin, fluorescent probes, and chemiluminescent probes. The nucleic acids extracted from the sample are then treated with the labeled probe under hybridization conditions of suitable stringencies, and polynucleotide duplexes containing the probe are detected.

[0114] The probes can be made completely complementary to the HCV genome. Therefore, usually high stringency conditions are desirable in order to prevent false positives. However, conditions of high stringency should only be used if the probes are complementary to regions of the viral genome which lack heterogeneity. The stringency of hybridization is determined by a number of factors during hybridization and during the washing procedure, including temperature, ionic strength, length of time, and concentration of formamide. These factors are outlined in, for example, Maniatis, T. (1982).

[0115] Generally, it is expected that the HCV genome sequences will be present in serum of infected individuals at relatively low levels, i.e., at approximately 10²-10³ chimp infectious doses (CID) per ml. This level may require that amplification techniques be used in hybridization assays. Such techniques are known in the art. For example, the Enzo Biochemical Corporation "Bio-Bridge" system uses terminal deoxynucleotide transferase to add unmodified 3'-poly-dT-tails to a DNA probe. The poly dT-tailed probe is hybridized to the target nucleotide sequence, and then to a biotin-modified poly-A. PCT application 84/03520 and EPA124221 describe a DNA hybridization assay in which: (1) analyte is annealed to a single-stranded DNA probe that is complementary to an enzyme-labeled oligonucleotide; and (2) the resulting tailed duplex is hybridized to an enzyme-labeled oligonucleotide. EPA 204510 describes a DNA hybridization assay in which analyte DNA is contacted with a probe that has a tail, such as a poly-dT tail, an amplifier strand that has a sequence that hybridizes to the tail of the probe, such as a poly-A sequence, and which is capable of binding a plurality of labeled strands. A particularly desirable technique may first involve amplification of the target HCV sequenc-

es in sera approximately 10,000 fold, i.e., to approximately 10^6 sequences/ml. This may be accomplished, for example, by the polymerase chain reactions (PCR) technique described which is by Saiki et al. (1986), by Mullis, U.S. Patent No. 4,683,195, and by Mullis et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,683,202. The amplified sequence(s) may then be detected using a hybridization assay which is described in EP 317,077, published May 24, 1989. These hybridization assays, which should detect sequences at the level of 10^6 /ml, utilize nucleic acid multimers which bind to single-stranded analyte nucleic acid, and which also bind to a multiplicity of single-stranded labeled oligonucleotides. A suitable solution phase sandwich assay which may be used with labeled polynucleotide probes, and the methods for the preparation of probes is described in EPO 225,807, published June 16, 1987.

[0116] The probes can be packaged into diagnostic kits. Diagnostic kits include the probe DNA, which may be labeled; alternatively, the probe DNA may be unlabeled and the ingredients for labeling may be included in the kit in separate containers. The kit may also contain other suitably packaged reagents and materials needed for the particular hybridization protocol, for example, standards, as well as instructions for conducting the test.

Immunoassay and Diagnostic Kits

[0117] Both the polypeptides which react immunologically with serum containing HCV antibodies, for example, those detected by the antigenic screening method described infra in the Examples, as well those derived from or encoded within the isolated clones described in the Examples, and composites thereof, and the antibodies raised against the HCV specific epitopes in these polypeptides, are useful in immunoassays to detect presence of HCV antibodies, or the presence of the virus and/ or viral antigens, in biological samples. Design of the immunoassays is subject to a great deal of variation, and a variety of these are known in the art. For example, the immunoassay may utilize one viral epitope; alternatively, the immunoassay may use a combination of viral epitopes derived from these sources; these epitopes may be derived from the same or from different viral polypeptides, and may be in separate recombinant or natural polypeptides, or together in the same recombinant polypeptides. It may use, for example, a monoclonal antibody directed towards a viral epitope(s), a combination of monoclonal antibodies directed towards epitopes of one viral antigen, monoclonal antibodies directed towards epitopes of different viral antigens, polyclonal antibodies directed towards the same viral antigen, or polyclonal antibodies directed towards different viral antigens. Protocols may be based, for example, upon competition, or direct reaction, or sandwich type assays. Protocols may also, for example, use solid supports, or may be by immunoprecipitation. Most assays involve the use of labeled antibody or polypeptide; the labels may be, for example, fluorescent, chemiluminescent, radioactive, or dye molecules. Assays which amplify the signals from the probe are also known; examples of which are assays which utilize biotin and avidin, and enzyme-labeled and mediated immunoassays, such as ELISA assays.

[0118] Some of the antigenic regions of the putative polyprotein have been mapped and identified by screening the antigenicity of bacterial expression products of HCV cDNAs which encode portions of the polyprotein. See the Examples. Other antigenic regions of HCV may be detected by expressing the portions of the HCV cDNAs in other expression systems, including yeast systems and cellular systems derived from insects and vertebrates. In addition, studies giving rise to an antigenicity index and hydrophobicity/hydrophilicity profile give rise to information concerning the probability of a region's antigenicity.

[0119] The studies on antigenic mapping by expression of HCV cDNAs showed that a number of clones containing these cDNAs expressed polypeptides which were immunologically reactive with serum from individuals with NANBH. No single polypeptide was immunologically reactive with all sera. Five of these polypeptides were very immunogenic in that antibodies to the HCV epitopes in these polypeptides were detected in many different patient sera, although the overlap in detection was not complete. Thus, the results on the immunogenicity of the polypeptides encoded in the various clones suggest that efficient detection systems may include the use of panels of epitopes. The epitopes in the panel may be constructed into one or multiple polypeptides.

[0120] Kits suitable for immunodiagnosis and containing the appropriate labeled reagents are constructed by packaging the appropriate materials, including the polypeptides of the invention containing HCV epitopes or antibodies directed against HCV epitopes in suitable containers, along with the remaining reagents and materials required for the conduct of the assay, as well as a suitable set of assay instructions.

Further Characterization of the HCV Genome, Virions, and Viral Antigens Using Probes Derived From cDNA to the Viral Genome

[0121] The HCV cDNA sequence information in the newly isolated clones described in the Examples may be used to gain further information on the sequence of the HCV genome, and for identification and isolation of the HCV agent, and thus will aid in its characterization including the nature of the genome, the structure of the viral particle, and the nature of the antigens of which it is composed. This information, in turn, can lead to additional polynucleotide probes, polypeptides derived from the HCV genome, and antibodies directed against HCV epitopes which would be useful for

the diagnosis and/or treatment of HCV caused NANBH.

[0122] The cDNA sequence information in the above-mentioned clones is useful for the design of probes for the isolation of additional cDNA sequences which are derived from as yet undefined regions of the HCV genome(s) from which the cDNAs in clones described herein and in EP 0,316,218 are derived. For example, labeled probes containing a sequence of approximately 8 or more nucleotides, and preferably 20 or more nucleotides, which are derived from regions close to the 5'-termini or 3'-termini of the composite HCV cDNA sequence shown in Fig. 17 may be used to isolate overlapping cDNA sequences from HCV cDNA libraries. Alternatively, characterization of the genomic segments could be from the viral genome(s) isolated from purified HCV particles. Methods for purifying HCV particles and for detecting them during the purification procedure are described herein, *infra*. Procedures for isolating polynucleotide genomes from viral particles are known in the art, and one procedure which may be used is that described in EP 0,218,316. The isolated genomic segments could then be cloned and sequenced. An example of this technique, which utilizes amplification of the sequences to be cloned, is provided *infra*., and yielded clone 16jh.

[0123] Methods for constructing cDNA libraries are known in the art, and are discussed *supra* and *infra*; a method for the construction of HCV cDNA libraries in lambda-gt11 is discussed in EPO Pub. No. 318,216. However, cDNA libraries which are useful for screening with nucleic acid probes may also be constructed in other vectors known in the art, for example, lambda-gt10 (Huynh et al. (1985)).

Screening for Anti-Viral Agents for HCV

[0124] The availability of cell culture and animal model systems for HCV makes it possible to screen for anti-viral agents which inhibit HCV replication, and particularly for those agents which preferentially allow cell growth and multiplication while inhibiting viral replication. These screening methods are known by those of skill in the art. Generally, the anti-viral agents are tested at a variety of concentrations, for their effect on preventing viral replication in cell culture systems which support viral replication, and then for an inhibition of infectivity or of viral pathogenicity (and a low level of toxicity) in an animal model system.

[0125] The methods and compositions provided herein for detecting HCV antigens and HCV polynucleotides are useful for screening of anti-viral agents in that they provide an alternative, and perhaps more sensitive means, for detecting the agent's effect on viral replication than the cell plaque assay or ID₅₀ assay. For example, the HCV-polynucleotide probes described herein may be used to quantitate the amount of viral nucleic acid produced in a cell culture. This could be accomplished, for example, by hybridization or competition hybridization of the infected cell nucleic acids with a labeled HCV-polynucleotide probe. For example, also, anti-HCV antibodies may be used to identify and quantitate HCV antigen(s) in the cell culture utilizing the immunoassays described herein. In addition, since it may be desirable to quantitate HCV antigens in the infected cell culture by a competition assay, the polypeptides encoded within the HCV cDNAs described herein are useful in these competition assays. Generally, a recombinant HCV polypeptide derived from the HCV cDNA would be labeled, and the inhibition of binding of this labeled polypeptide to an HCV polypeptide due to the antigen produced in the cell culture system would be monitored. Moreover, these techniques are particularly useful in cases where the HCV may be able to replicate in a cell line without causing cell death.

[0126] The anti-viral agents which may be tested for efficacy by these methods are known in the art, and include, for example, those which interact with virion components and/or cellular components which are necessary for the binding and/or replication of the virus. Typical anti-viral agents may include, for example, inhibitors of virion polymerase and/or protease(s) necessary for cleavage of the precursor polypeptides. Other anti-viral agents may include those which act with nucleic acids to prevent viral replication, for example, anti-sense polynucleotides, etc.

[0127] Antisense polynucleotides molecules are comprised of a complementary nucleotide sequence which allows them to hybridize specifically to designated regions of genomes or RNAs. Antisense polynucleotides may include, for example, molecules that will block protein translation by binding to mRNA, or may be molecules which prevent replication of viral RNA by transcriptase. They may also include molecules which carry agents (non-covalently attached or covalently bound) which cause the viral RNA to be inactive by causing, for example, scissions in the viral RNA. They may also bind to cellular polynucleotides which enhance and/or are required for viral infectivity, replicative ability, or chronicity. Antisense molecules which are to hybridize to HCV derived RNAs may be designed based upon the sequence information of the HCV cDNAs provided herein. The antiviral agents based upon anti-sense polynucleotides for HCV may be designed to bind with high specificity, to be of increased solubility, to be stable, and to have low toxicity. Hence, they may be delivered in specialized systems, for example, liposomes, or by gene therapy. In addition, they may include analogs, attached proteins, substituted or altered bonding between bases, etc.

[0128] Other types of drugs may be based upon polynucleotides which "mimic" important control regions of the HCV genome, and which may be therapeutic due to their interactions with key components of the system responsible for viral infectivity or replication.

General Methods

[0129] The general techniques used in extracting the genome from a virus, preparing and probing a cDNA library, sequencing clones, constructing expression vectors, transforming cells, performing immunological assays such as radioimmunoassays and ELISA assays, for growing cells in culture, and the like are known in the art and laboratory manuals are available describing these techniques. However, as a general guide, the following sets forth some sources currently available for such procedures, and for materials useful in carrying them out.

[0130] Both prokaryotic and eukaryotic host cells may be used for expression of desired coding sequences when appropriate control sequences which are compatible with the designated host are used. Among prokaryotic hosts, *E. coli* is most frequently used. Expression control sequences for prokaryotes include promoters, optionally containing operator portions, and ribosome binding sites. Transfer vectors compatible with prokaryotic hosts are commonly derived from, for example, pBR322, a plasmid containing operons conferring ampicillin and tetracycline resistance, and the various pUC vectors, which also contain sequences conferring antibiotic resistance markers. These markers may be used to obtain successful transformants by selection. Commonly used prokaryotic control sequences include the Beta-lactamase (penicillinase) and lactose promoter systems (Chang et al. (1977)), the tryptophan (trp) promoter system (Goeddel et al. (1980)) and the lambda-derived P_L promoter and N gene ribosome binding site (Shimatake et al. (1981)) and the hybrid *lac* promoter (De Boer et al. (1983)) derived from sequences of the *trp* and *lac* UV5 promoters. The foregoing systems are particularly compatible with *E. coli*; if desired, other prokaryotic hosts such as strains of *Bacillus* or *Pseudomonas* may be used, with corresponding control sequences.

[0131] Eukaryotic hosts include yeast and mammalian cells in culture systems. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis* are the most commonly used yeast hosts, and are convenient fungal hosts. Yeast compatible vectors carry markers which permit selection of successful transformants by conferring prototrophy to auxotrophic mutants or resistance to heavy metals on wild-type strains. Yeast compatible vectors may employ the 2 micron origin of replication (Broach et al. (1983)), the combination of CEN3 and ARS1 or other means for assuring replication, such as sequences which will result in incorporation of an appropriate fragment into the host cell genome. Control sequences for yeast vectors are known in the art and include promoters for the synthesis of glycolytic enzymes (Hess et al. (1968); Holland et al. (1978)), including the promoter for 3 phosphoglycerate kinase (Hitzeman (1980)). Terminators may also be included, such as those derived from the enolase gene (Holland (1981)). Particularly useful control systems are those which comprise the glyceraldehyde-3 phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) promoter or alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH) regulatable promoter, terminators also derived from GAPDH, and if secretion is desired, leader sequence from yeast alpha factor. In addition, the transcriptional regulatory region and the transcriptional initiation region which are operably linked may be such that they are not naturally associated in the wild-type organism. These systems are described in detail in EPO 120,551, published October 3, 1984; EPO 116,201, published August 22, 1984; and EPO 164,556, published December 18, 1985, all of which are assigned to the herein assignee, and are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0132] Mammalian cell lines available as hosts for expression are known in the art and include many immortalized cell lines available from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), including HeLa cells, Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, baby hamster kidney (BHK) cells, and a number of other cell lines. Suitable promoters for mammalian cells are also known in the art and include viral promoters such as that from Simian Virus 40 (SV40) (Fiers (1978)), Rous sarcoma virus (RSV), adenovirus (ADV), and bovine papilloma virus (BPV). Mammalian cells may also require terminator sequences and poly A addition sequences; enhancer sequences which increase expression may also be included, and sequences which cause amplification of the gene may also be desirable. These sequences are known in the art. Vectors suitable for replication in mammalian cells may include viral replicons, or sequences which insure integration of the appropriate sequences encoding NANBV epitopes into the host genome.

[0133] Transformation may be by any known method for introducing polynucleotides into a host cell, including, for example packaging the polynucleotide in a virus and transducing a host cell with the virus, and by direct uptake of the polynucleotide. The transformation procedure used depends upon the host to be transformed. For example, transformation of the *E. coli* host cells with lambda-gt11 containing BB-NANBV sequences is discussed in the Example section, infra. Bacterial transformation by direct uptake generally employs treatment with calcium or rubidium chloride (Cohen (1972); Maniatis (1982)). Yeast transformation by direct uptake may be carried out using the method of Hinnen et al. (1978). Mammalian transformations by direct uptake may be conducted using the calcium phosphate precipitation method of Graham and Van der Eb (1978), or the various known modifications thereof.

[0134] Vector construction employs techniques which are known in the art. Site-specific DNA cleavage is performed by treating with suitable restriction enzymes under conditions which generally are specified by the manufacturer of these commercially available enzymes. In general, about 1 microgram of plasmid or DNA sequence is cleaved by 1 unit of enzyme in about 20 microliters buffer solution by incubation of 1-2 hr at 37° C. After incubation with the restriction enzyme, protein is removed by phenol/ chloroform extraction and the DNA recovered by precipitation with ethanol. The cleaved fragments may be separated using polyacrylamide or agarose gel electrophoresis techniques, according

to the general procedures found in *Methods in Enzymology* (1980) 65:499-560.

[0135] Sticky ended cleavage fragments may be blunt ended using *E. coli* DNA polymerase I (Klenow) in the presence of the appropriate deoxynucleotide triphosphates (dNTPs) present in the mixture. Treatment with S1 nuclease may also be used, resulting in the hydrolysis of any single stranded DNA portions.

[0136] Ligations are carried out using standard buffer and temperature conditions using T4 DNA ligase and ATP; sticky end ligations require less ATP and less ligase than blunt end ligations. When vector fragments are used as part of a ligation mixture, the vector fragment is often treated with bacterial alkaline phosphatase (BAP) or calf intestinal alkaline phosphatase to remove the 5'-phosphate and thus prevent religation of the vector; alternatively, restriction enzyme digestion of unwanted fragments can be used to prevent ligation.

[0137] Ligation mixtures are transformed into suitable cloning hosts, such as *E. coli*, and successful transformants selected by, for example, antibiotic resistance, and screened for the correct construction.

[0138] Synthetic oligonucleotides may be prepared using an automated oligonucleotide synthesizer as described by Warner (1984). If desired the synthetic strands may be labeled with ³²P by treatment with polynucleotide kinase in the presence of ³²P-ATP, using standard conditions for the reaction.

[0139] DNA sequences, including those isolated from cDNA libraries, may be modified by known techniques, including, for example site directed mutagenesis, as described by Zoller (1982). Briefly, the DNA to be modified is packaged into phage as a single stranded sequence, and converted to a double stranded DNA with DNA polymerase using, as a primer, a synthetic oligonucleotide complementary to the portion of the DNA to be modified, and having the desired modification included in its own sequence. The resulting double stranded DNA is transformed into a phage supporting host bacterium. Cultures of the transformed bacteria, which contain replications of each strand of the phage, are plated in agar to obtain plaques. Theoretically, 50% of the new plaques contain phage having the mutated sequence, and the remaining 50% have the original sequence. Replicates of the plaques are hybridized to labeled synthetic probe at temperatures and conditions which permit hybridization with the correct strand, but not with the unmodified sequence. The sequences which have been identified by hybridization are recovered and cloned.

[0140] DNA libraries may be probed using the procedure of Grunstein and Hogness (1975). Briefly, in this procedure, the DNA to be probed is immobilized on nitrocellulose filters, denatured, and prehybridized with a buffer containing 0-50% formamide, 0.75 M NaCl, 75 mM Na citrate, 0.02% (wt/v) each of bovine serum albumin, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, and Ficoll, 50 mM Na Phosphate (pH 6.5), 0.1% SDS, and 100 micrograms/ml carrier denatured DNA. The percentage of formamide in the buffer, as well as the time and temperature conditions of the prehybridization and subsequent hybridization steps depends on the stringency required. Oligomeric probes which require lower stringency conditions are generally used with low percentages of formamide, lower temperatures, and longer hybridization times. Probes containing more than 30 or 40 nucleotides such as those derived from cDNA or genomic sequences generally employ higher temperatures, e.g., about 40-42°C, and a high percentage, e.g., 50%, formamide. Following prehybridization, 5'-³²P-labeled oligonucleotide probe is added to the buffer, and the filters are incubated in this mixture under hybridization conditions. After washing, the treated filters are subjected to autoradiography to show the location of the hybridized probe; DNA in corresponding locations on the original agar plates is used as the source of the desired DNA.

[0141] For routine vector constructions, ligation mixtures are transformed into *E. coli* strain HB101 or other suitable host, and successful transformants selected by antibiotic resistance or other markers. Plasmids from the transformants are then prepared according to the method of Clewell et al. (1969), usually following chloramphenicol amplification (Clewell (1972)). The DNA is isolated and analyzed, usually by restriction enzyme analysis and/or sequencing. Sequencing may be by the dideoxy method of Sanger et al. (1977) as further described by Messing et al. (1981), or by the method of Maxam et al. (1980). Problems with band compression, which are sometimes observed in GC rich regions, were overcome by use of T-deazoguanosine according to Barr et al. (1986).

[0142] The enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) can be used to measure either antigen or antibody concentrations. This method depends upon conjugation of an enzyme to either an antigen or an antibody, and uses the bound enzyme activity as a quantitative label. To measure antibody, the known antigen is fixed to a solid phase (e.g., a microplate or plastic cup), incubated with test serum dilutions, washed, incubated with anti-immunoglobulin labeled with an enzyme, and washed again. Enzymes suitable for labeling are known in the art, and include, for example, horseradish peroxidase. Enzyme activity bound to the solid phase is measured by adding the specific substrate, and determining product formation or substrate utilization colorimetrically. The enzyme activity bound is a direct function of the amount of antibody bound.

[0143] To measure antigen, a known specific antibody is fixed to the solid phase, the test material containing antigen is added, after an incubation the solid phase is washed, and a second enzyme-labeled antibody is added. After washing, substrate is added, and enzyme activity is estimated colorimetrically, and related to antigen concentration.

Examples

[0144] Described below are examples of the present invention which are provided only for illustrative purposes, and

not to limit the scope of the present invention. In light of the present disclosure, numerous embodiments within the scope of the claims will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art.

Isolation and Sequence of Overlapping HCV cDNA Clones 13i, 26j, CA59a, CA84a, CA156e and CA167b

[0145] The clones 13i, 26j, CA59a, CA84a, CA156e and CA167b were isolated from the lambda-gt11 library which contains HCV cDNA (ATCC No. 40394), the preparation of which is described in EPO Pub. No. 318,216 (published 31 May 1989), and WO 89/04669 (published 1 June 1989). Screening of the library was with the probes described infra., using the method described in Huynh (1985). The frequencies with which positive clones appeared with the respective probes was about 1 in 50,000.

[0146] The isolation of clone 13i was accomplished using a synthetic probe derived from the sequence of clone 12f. The sequence of the probe was:

5' GAA CGT TGC GAT CTG GAA GAC AGG GAC AGG 3'.

[0147] The isolation of clone 26j was accomplished using a probe derived from the 5'-region of clone K9-1. The sequence of the probe was:

5' TAT CAG TTA TGC CAA CGG AAG CGG CCC CGA 3'.

[0148] The isolation procedures for clone 12f and for clone k9-1 (also called K9-1) are described in EPO Pub. No. 318,216, and their sequences are shown in Figs. 1 and 2, respectively. The HCV cDNA sequences of clones 13i and 26j, are shown in Figs. 4 and 5, respectively. Also shown are the amino acids encoded therein, as well as the overlap of clone 13i with clone 12f, and the overlap of clone 26j with clone 13i. The sequences for these clones confirmed the sequence of clone K9-1. Clone K9-1 had been isolated from a different HCV cDNA library (See EP 0,218,316).

[0149] Clone CA59a was isolated utilizing a probe based upon the sequence of the 5'-region of clone 26j. The sequence of this probe was:

5' CTG GTT AGC AGG GCT TTT CTA TCA CCA CAA 3'.

[0150] A probe derived from the sequence of clone CA59a was used to isolate clone CA84a. The sequence of the probe used for this isolation was:

5' AAG GTC CTG GTA GTG CTG CTG CTA TTT GCC 3'.

[0151] Clone CA156e was isolated using a probe derived from the sequence of clone CA84a. The sequence of the probe was:

5' ACT GGA CGA CGC AAG GTT GCA ATT GCT CTA 3'.

[0152] Clone CA167b was isolated using a probe derived from the sequence of clone CA 156e. The sequence of the probe was:

5' TTC GAC GTC ACA TCG ATC TGC TTG TCG GGA 3'.

[0153] The nucleotide sequences of the HCV cDNAs in clones CA59a, CA84a, CA156e, and CA167b, are shown Figs. 6, 7, 8, and 9, respectively. The amino acids encoded therein, as well as the overlap with the sequences of relevant clones, are also shown in the Figs.

Creation of "pi" HCV cDNA Library

[0154] A library of HCV cDNA, the "pi" library, was constructed from the same batch of infectious chimpanzee plasma used to construct the lambda-gt11 HCV cDNA library (ATCC No. 40394) described in EPO Pub. No. 318,216, and utilizing essentially the same techniques. However, construction of the pi library utilized a primer-extension method, in which the primer for reverse transcriptase was based on the sequence of clone CA59A. The sequence of the primer was:

5' GGT GAC GTG GGT TTC 3'.

Isolation and Sequence of Clone pi14a

[0155] Screening of the "pi" HCV cDNA library described supra., with the probe used to isolate clone CA167b (See supra.) yielded clone pi14a. The clone contains about 800 base pairs of cDNA which overlaps clones CA167b, CA156e, CA84a and CA59a, which were isolated from the lambda gt-11 HCV cDNA library (ATCC No. 40394). In addition, pi14a also contains about 250 base pairs of DNA which are upstream of the HCV cDNA in clone CA167b.

Isolation and Sequence of Clones CA216a, CA290a and ag30a

[0156] Based on the sequence of clone CA167b a synthetic probe was made having the following sequence:

5' GGC TTT ACC ACG TCA CCA ATG ATT GCC CTA 3'

The above probe was used to screen the lambda-gt11 library (ATCC No. 40394), which yielded clone CA216a, whose HCV sequences are shown in Fig. 10.

[0157] Another probe was made based on the sequence of clone CA216a having the following sequence:

5' TTT GGG TAA GGT CAT CGA TAC CCT TAC GTG 3'

Screening the 'lambda-gt11 library (ATCC No. 40394)' with this probe yielded clone CA290a, the HCV sequences therein being shown in Fig. 11.

[0158] In a parallel approach, a primer-extension cDNA library was made using nucleic acid extracted from the same infectious plasma used in the original lambda-gt11 cDNA library described above. The primer used was based on the sequence of clones CA216a and CA290a:

5' GAA GCC GCA CGT AAG 3'

The cDNA library was made using methods similar to those described previously for libraries used in the isolation of clones pi14a and k9-1. The probe used to screen this library was based on the sequence of clone CA290a:

5' CCG GCG TAG GTC GCG CAA TTT GGG TAA 3'

Clone ag30a was isolated from the new library with the above probe, and contained about 670 basepairs of HCV sequence. See Fig. 12. Part of this sequence overlaps the HCV sequence of clones CA216a and CA290a. About 300 , base-pairs of the ag30a sequence, however, is upstream of the sequence from clone CA290a. The non-overlapping sequence shows a start codon (*) and stop codons that may indicate the start of the HCV ORF. Also indicated in Fig. 12 are putative small encoded peptides (#) which may play a role in regulating translation, as well as the putative first amino acid of the putative polypeptide (/), and downstream amino acids encoded therein.

Isolation and Sequence of Clone CA205a

[0159] Clone CA205a was isolated from the original lambda gt-11 library (ATCC No. 40394), using a synthetic probe derived from the HCV sequence in clone CA290a (Fig. 11). The sequence of the probe was:

5' TCA GAT CGT TGG TGG AGT TTA CTT GTT GCC 3'.

The sequence of the HCV cDNA in CA205a, shown in Fig. 13, overlaps with the cDNA sequences in both clones ag30a and CA290a. The overlap of the sequence with that of CA290a is shown by the dotted line above the sequence (the figure also shows the putative amino acids encoded in this fragment).

[0160] As observed from the HCV cDNA sequences in clones CA205a and ag30a, the putative HCV polyprotein appears to begin at the ATG start codon; the HCV sequences in both clones contain an in-frame, contiguous double stop codon (TGATAG) forty two nucleotides upstream from this ATG. The HCV ORF appears to begin after these stop codons, and to extend for at least 8907 nucleotides (See the composite HCV cDNA shown in Fig. 17).

Isolation and Sequence of Clone 18g

[0161] Based on the sequence of clone ag30a (See Fig. 12) and of an overlapping clone from the original lambda gt-11 library (ATCC No. 40394), CA230a, a synthetic probe was made having the following sequence:

5' CCA TAG TGG TCT GCG GAA CCG GTG AGT ACA 3'.

Screening of the original lambda-gt11 HCV cDNA library with the probe yielded clone 18g, the HCV cDNA sequence of which is shown in Fig. 14. Also shown in the figure are the overlap with clone ag30a, and putative polypeptides encoded within the HCV cDNA.

[0162] The cDNA in clone 18g (C18g or 18g) overlaps that in clones ag30a and CA205a, described supra. The sequence of C18g also contains the double stop codon region observed in clone ag30a. The polynucleotide region upstream of these stop codons presumably represents part of the 5'-region of the HCV genome, which may contain short ORFs, and which can be confirmed by direct sequencing of the purified HCV genome. These putative small encoded peptides may play a regulatory role in translation. The region of the HCV genome upstream of that represented by C18g can be isolated for sequence analysis using essentially the technique described in EPO Pub. No. 318,216 for isolating cDNA sequences upstream of the HCV cDNA sequence in clone 12f. Essentially, small synthetic oligonucleotide primers of reverse transcriptase, which are based upon the sequence of C18g, are synthesized and used to bind to the corresponding sequence in HCV genomic RNA. The primer sequences are proximal to the known 5'-terminal of C18g, but sufficiently downstream to allow the design of probe sequences upstream of the primer sequences. Known standard methods of priming and cloning are used. The resulting cDNA libraries are screened with sequences upstream of the priming sites (as deduced from the elucidated sequence of C18g). The HCV genomic RNA is obtained from either plasma or liver samples from individuals with NANBH. Since HCV appears to be a Flavi-like virus, the 5'-terminus of the genome may be modified with a "cap" structure. It is known that Flavivirus genomes contain 5'-terminal "cap" structures. (Yellow Fever virus, Rice et al. (1988); Dengue virus, Hahn et al (1988); Japanese Encephalitis Virus (1987)).

Isolation and Sequence of Clones from the beta-HCV cDNA library

[0163] Clones containing cDNA representative of the 3'-terminal region of the HCV genome were isolated from a cDNA library constructed from the original infectious chimpanzee plasma pool which was used for the creation of the HCV cDNA lambda-gt11 library (ATCC No. 40394), described in EPO Pub. No. 318,216. In order to create the DNA library, RNA extracted from the plasma was "tailed" with poly rA using poly (rA) polymerase, and cDNA was synthesized using oligo(dT)₁₂₋₁₈ as a primer for reverse transcriptase. The resulting RNA:cDNA hybrid was digested with RNAase H, and converted to double stranded HCV cDNA. The resulting HCV cDNA was cloned into lambda-gt10, using essentially the technique described in Huynh (1985), yielding the beta (or b) HCV cDNA library. The procedures used were as follows.

[0164] An aliquot (12ml) of the plasma was treated with proteinase K, and extracted with an equal volume of phenol saturated with 0.05M Tris-Cl, pH 7.5, 0.05% (v/v) beta-mercaptoethanol, 0.1% (w/v) hydroxyquinolone, 1 mM EDTA.

The resulting aqueous phase was re-extracted with the phenol mixture, followed by 3 extractions with a 1:1 mixture containing phenol and chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (24:1), followed by 2 extractions with a mixture of chloroform and isoamyl alcohol (1:1). Subsequent to adjustment of the aqueous phase to 200 mM with respect to NaCl, nucleic acids in the aqueous phase were precipitated overnight at -20°C, with 2.5 volumes of cold absolute ethanol. The precipitates were collected by centrifugation at 10,000 RPM for 40 min., washed with 70% ethanol containing 20 mM NaCl, and with 100% cold ethanol, dried for 5 min. in a dessicator, and dissolved in water.

[0165] The isolated nucleic acids from the infectious chimpanzee plasma pool were tailed with poly rA utilizing poly-A polymerase in the presence of human placenta ribonuclease inhibitor (HPRI) (purchased from Amersham Corp.), utilizing MS2 RNA as carrier. Isolated nucleic acids equivalent to that in 2 ml of plasma were incubated in a solution containing TMN (50 mM Tris HCl, pH 7.9, 10 mM MgCl₂, 250 mM NaCl, 2.5 mM MnCl₂, 2 mM dithiothreitol (DTT)), 40 micromolar alpha-[³²P] ATP, 20 units HPRI (Amersham Corp.), and about 9 to 10 units of RNase free poly-A polymerase (BRL). Incubation was for 10 min. at 37°C, and the reactions were stopped with EDTA (final concentration about 250 mM). The solution was extracted with an equal volume of phenol-chloroform, and with an equal volume of chloroform, and nucleic acids were precipitated overnight at -20°C with 2.5 volumes of ethanol in the presence of 200 mM NaCl.

Isolation of Clone b5a

[0166] The beta HCV cDNA library was screened by hybridization using a synthetic probe, which had a sequence based upon the HCV cDNA sequence in clone 15e. The isolation of clone 15e is described in EPO Pub. No. 318,216, and its sequence is shown in Fig. 3. The sequence of the synthetic probe was:

5' ATT GCG AGA TCT ACG GGG CCT GCT ACT CCA 3'.

Screening of the library yielded clone beta-5a (b5a), which contains an HCV cDNA region of approximately 1000 base pairs. The 5'-region of this cDNA overlaps clones 35f, 19g, 26g, and 15e (these clones are described supra). The region between the 3'-terminal poly-A sequence and the 3'-sequence which overlaps clone 15e, contains approximately 200 base pairs. This clone allows the identification of a region of the 3'-terminal sequence the HCV genome.

[0167] The sequence of b5a is contained within the sequence of the HCV cDNA in clone 16jh (described infra). Moreover, the sequence is also present in CC34a, isolated from the original lambda-gt11 library (ATCC No. 40394). (The original lambda-gt11 library is referred to herein as the "C" library).

Isolation and Sequence of Clones Generated by PCR Amplification of the 3'-Region of the HCV Genome

[0168] Multiple cDNA clones have been generated which contain nucleotide sequences derived from the 3'-region of the HCV genome. This was accomplished by amplifying a targeted region of the genome by a polymerase chain reaction technique described in Saiki et al. (1986), and in Saiki et al. (1988), which was modified as described below. The HCV RNA which was amplified was obtained from the original infectious chimpanzee plasma pool which was used for the creation of the HCV cDNA lambda-gt11 library (ATCC No. 40394) described in EPO Pub. No. 318,216. Isolation of the HCV RNA was as described supra. The isolated RNA was tailed at the 3'-end with ATP by *E. coli* poly-A polymerase as described in Sippel (1973), except that the nucleic acids isolated from chimp serum were substituted for the nucleic acid substrate. The tailed RNA was then reverse transcribed into cDNA by reverse transcriptase, using an oligo dT-primer adapter, essentially as described by Han (1987), except that the components and sequence of the primer-adapter were:

<u>Stuffer</u>	<u>NotI</u>	<u>SP6 Promoter</u>	<u>Primer</u>
AATTC	GCGGCCGC	CATACGATTAGGTGACACTATAGAA	T ₁₅

The resultant cDNA was subjected to amplification by PCR using two primers:

<u>Primer</u>	<u>Sequence</u>
JH32 (30mer)	ATAGCGGCCGCCCTCGATTGCGAGATCTAC
JH11 (20mer)	AATTCGGGCGGCCGCCATACGA

The JH32 primer contained 20 nucleotide sequences hybridizable to the 5'-end of the target region in the cDNA, with an estimated T_m of 66°C. The JH11 was derived from a portion of the oligo dT-primer adapter; thus, it is specific to the 3'-end of the cDNA with a T_m of 64°C. Both primers were designed to have a recognition site for the restriction enzyme, NotI, at the 5'-end, for use in subsequent cloning of the amplified HCV cDNA.

[0169] The PCR reaction was carried out by suspending the cDNA and the primers in 100 microliters of reaction mixture containing the four deoxynucleoside triphosphates, buffer salts and metal ions, and a thermostable DNA polymerase isolated from *Thermus aquaticus* (Taq polymerase), which are in a Perkin Elmer Cetus PCR kit (N801-0043 or N801-0055). The PCR reaction was performed for 35 cycles in a Perkin Elmer Cetus DNA thermal cycler. Each cycle consisted of a 1.5 min denaturation step at 94°C, an annealing step at 60°C for 2 min, and a primer extension step at 72°C for 3 min. The PCR products were subjected to Southern blot analysis using a 30 nucleotide probe, JH34, the sequence of which was based upon that of the 3'-terminal region of clone 15e. The sequence of JH34 is:

5' CTT GAT CTA CCT CCA ATC ATT CAA AGA CTC 3'.

The PCR products detected by the HCV cDNA probe ranged in size from about 50 to about 400 base pairs.

[0170] In order to clone the amplified HCV cDNA, the PCR products were cleaved with NotI and size selected by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. DNA larger than 300 base pairs was cloned into the NotI site of pUC18S. The vector pUC18S is constructed by including a NotI polylinker cloned between the EcoRI and Sall sites of pUC18. The clones were screened for HCV cDNA using the JH34 probe. A number of positive clones were obtained and sequenced. The nucleotide sequence of the HCV cDNA insert in one of these clones, 16jh, and the amino acids encoded therein, are shown in Fig. 15. A nucleotide heterogeneity, detected in the sequence of the HCV cDNA in clone 16jh as compared to another clone of this region, is indicated in the figure.

Compiled HCV cDNA Sequences

[0171] An HCV cDNA sequence has been compiled from a series of overlapping clones derived from the various HCV cDNA libraries described supra.. In this sequence, the compiled HCV cDNA sequence obtained from clones b114a, 18g, ag30a, CA205a, CA290a, CA216a, pi14a, CA167b, CA156e, CA84a, and CA59a is upstream of the compiled HCV cDNA sequence published in EPO Pub. No. 318,216, which is shown in Fig. 16. The compiled HCV cDNA sequence obtained from clones b5a and 16jh downstream of the compiled HCV cDNA sequence published in EPO Pub. No. 318,216.

[0172] Fig. 17 shows the compiled HCV cDNA sequence derived from the above-described clones and the compiled HCV cDNA sequence published in EPO Pub. No. 318,216. The clones from which the sequence was derived are b114a, 18g, ag30a, CA205a, CA290a, CA216a, pi14a, CA167b, CA156e, CA84a, CA59a, K9-1 (also called k9-1), 26j, 13i, 12f, 14i, 11b, 7f, 7e, 8h, 33c, 40b, 37b, 35, 36, 81, 32, 33b, 25c, 14c, 8f, 33f, 33g, 39c, 35f, 19g, 26g, 15e, b5a, and 16jh. In the figure the three dashes above the sequence indicate the position of the putative initiator methionine codon.

[0173] Clone b114a was obtained using the cloning procedure described for clone b5a, supra., except that the probe was the synthetic probe used to detect clone 18g, supra. Clone b114a overlaps with clones 18g, ag30a, and CA205a, except that clone b114a contains an extra two nucleotides upstream of the sequence in clone 18g (i.e., 5'-CA). These extra two nucleotides have been included in the HCV genomic sequence shown in Fig. 17.

[0174] It should be noted that although several of the clones described supra. have been obtained from libraries other than the original HCV cDNA lambda-gt11 C library (ATCC No. 40394), these clones contain HCV cDNA sequences which overlap HCV cDNA sequences in the original library. Thus, essentially all of the HCV sequence is derivable from the original lambda-gt11 C library (ATCC No. 40394) which was used to isolate the first HCV cDNA clone (5-1-1). The isolation of clone 5-1-1 is described in EPO Pub. No. 318,216.

Purification of Fusion Polypeptide C100-3 (Alternate method)

[0175] The fusion polypeptide, C100-3 (also called HCV c100-3 and alternatively, c100-3), is comprised of superoxide

dismutase (SOD) at the N-terminus and an in-frame C100 HCV polypeptide at the C-terminus. A method for preparing the polypeptide by expression in yeast, and differential extraction of the insoluble fraction of the extracted host yeast cells, is described in EPO Pub. No. 318,216. An alternative method for the preparation of this fusion polypeptide is described below. In this method the antigen is precipitated from the crude cell lysate with acetone; the acetone precipitated antigen

is then subjected to ion-exchange chromatography, and further purified by gel filtration.
[0176] The fusion polypeptide, C100-3 (HCV c100-3), is expressed in yeast strain JSC 308 (ATCC No. 20879) transformed with pAB24C100-3 (ATCC No. 67976); the transformed yeast are grown under conditions which allow expression (i.e., by growth in YEP containing 1% glucose). (See EPO Pub. No. 318,216). A cell lysate is prepared by suspending the cells in Buffer A (20 mM Tris HCl, pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM PMSF). The cells are broken by grinding with glass beads in a Dismill type homogenizer or its equivalent. The extent of cell breakage is monitored by counting cells under a microscope with phase optics. Broken cells appear dark, while viable cells are light-colored. The percentage of broken cells is determined.

[0177] When the percentage of broken cells is approximately 90% or greater, the broken cell debris is separated from the glass beads by centrifugation, and the glass beads are washed with Buffer A. After combining the washes and homogenate, the insoluble material in the lysate is obtained by centrifugation. The material in the pellet is washed to remove soluble proteins by suspension in Buffer B (50 mM glycine, pH 12.0, 1 mM DTT, 500 mM NaCl), followed by Buffer C (50 mM glycine, pH 10.0, 1 mM DTT). The insoluble material is recovered by centrifugation, and solubilized by suspension in Buffer C containing SDS. The extract solution may be heated in the presence of beta-mercaptoethanol and concentrated by ultrafiltration. The HCV c100-3 in the extract is precipitated with cold acetone. If desired, the precipitate may be stored at temperatures at about or below -15°C.

[0178] Prior to ion exchange chromatography, the acetone precipitated material is recovered by centrifugation, and may be dried under nitrogen. The precipitate is suspended in Buffer D (50 mM glycine, pH 10.0, 1 mM DTT, 7 M urea), and centrifuged to pellet insoluble material. The supernatant material is applied to an anion exchange column previously equilibrated with Buffer D. Fractions are collected and analyzed by ultraviolet absorbance or gel electrophoresis on SDS polyacrylamide gels. Those fractions containing the HCV c100-3 polypeptide are pooled.

[0179] In order to purify the HCV c100-3 polypeptide by gel filtration, the pooled fractions from the ion-exchange column are heated in the presence of beta-mercaptoethanol and SDS, and the eluate is concentrated by ultrafiltration. The concentrate is applied to a gel filtration column previously equilibrated with Buffer E (20 mM Tris HCl, pH 7.0, 1 mM DTT, 0.1% SDS). The presence of HCV c100-3 in the eluted fractions, as well as the presence of impurities, are determined by gel electrophoresis on polyacrylamide gels in the presence of SDS and visualization of the polypeptides. Those fractions containing purified HCV c100-3 are pooled. Fractions high in HCV c100-3 may be further purified by repeating the gel filtration process. If the removal of particulate material is desired, the HCV c100-3 containing material may be filtered through a 0.22 micron filter.

Expression and Antigenicity of Polypeptides Encoded in HCV cDNA

Polypeptides Expressed in *E. coli*

[0180] The polypeptides encoded in a number of HCV cDNAs which span the HCV genomic ORF were expressed in *E. coli*, and tested for their antigenicity using serum obtained from a variety of individuals with NANBH. The expression vectors containing the cloned HCV cDNAs were constructed from pSODcf1 (Steimer et al. (1986)). In order to be certain that a correct reading frame would be achieved, three separate expression vectors, pcf1AB, pcf1CD, and pcf1EF were created by ligating either of three linkers, AB, CD, and EF to a BamHI-EcoRI fragment derived by digesting to completion the vector pSODcf1 with EcoRI and BamHI, followed by treatment with alkaline phosphatase. The linkers were created from six oligomers, A, B, C, D, E, and F. Each oligomer was phosphorylated by treatment with kinase in the presence of ATP prior to annealing to its complementary oligomer. The sequences of the synthetic linkers were the following.

Name	DNA Sequence (5' to 3')
------	-------------------------

A	GATC CTG AAT TCC TGA TAA
B	GAC TTA AGG ACT ATT TTA A
C	GATC CGA ATT CTG TGA TAA
D	GCT TAA GAC ACT ATT TTA A
E	GATC CTG GAA TTC TGA TAA
F	GAC CTT AAG ACT ATT TTA A

Each of the three linkers destroys the original EcoRI site, and creates a new EcoRI site within the linker, but within a different reading frame. Hence, the HCV cDNA EcoRI fragments isolated from the clones when inserted into the expression vector, were in three different reading frames.

[0181] The HCV cDNA fragments in the designated lambda-gt11 clones were excised by digestion with EcoRI; each fragment was inserted into pcf1AB, pcf1CD, and pcf1EF. These expression constructs were then transformed into D1210 E. coli cells, the transformants were cloned, and recombinant bacteria from each clone were induced to express the fusion polypeptides by growing the bacteria in the presence of IPTG.

[0182] Expression products of the indicated HCV cDNAs were tested for antigenicity by direct immunological screening of the colonies, using a modification of the method described in Helfman et al. (1983). Briefly, as shown in Fig. 18, the bacteria were plated onto nitrocellulose filters overlaid on ampicillin plates to give approximately 1,000 colonies per filter. Colonies were replica plated onto nitrocellulose filters, and the replicas were regrown overnight in the presence of 2 mM IPTG and ampicillin. The bacterial colonies were lysed by suspending the nitrocellulose filters for about 15 to 20 min in an atmosphere saturated with CHCl_3 vapor. Each filter then was placed in an individual 100 mm Petri dish containing 10 ml of 50 mM Tris HCl, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgCl_2 , 3% (w/v) BSA, 40 micrograms/ml lysozyme, and 0.1 microgram/ml DNase. The plates were agitated gently for at least 8 hours at room temperature. The filters were rinsed in TBST (50 mM Tris HCl, pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 0.005% Tween 20). After incubation, the cell residues were rinsed and incubated in TBS (TBST without Tween) containing 10% sheep serum; incubation was for 1 hour. The filters were then incubated with pretreated sera in TBS from individuals with NANBH, which included: 3 chimpanzees; 8 patients with chronic NANBH whose sera were positive with respect to antibodies to HCV C100-3 polypeptide (described in EPO Pub. No. 318,216, and supra.) (also called C100); 8 patients with chronic NANBH whose sera were negative for anti-C100 antibodies; a convalescent patient whose serum was negative for anti-C100 antibodies; and 6 patients with community acquired NANBH, including one whose sera was strongly positive with respect to anti-C100 antibodies, and one whose sera was marginally positive with respect to anti-C100 antibodies. The sera, diluted in TBS, was pretreated by preabsorption with hSOD. Incubation of the filters with the sera was for at least two hours. After incubation, the filters were washed two times for 30 min with TBST. Labeling of expressed proteins to which antibodies in the sera bound was accomplished by incubation for 2 hours with ^{125}I -labeled sheep anti-human antibody. After washing, the filters were washed twice for 30 min with TBST, dried, and autoradiographed.

[0183] A number of clones (see infra.) expressed polypeptides containing HCV epitopes which were immunologically reactive with serum from individuals with NANBH. Five of these polypeptides were very immunogenic in that antibodies to HCV epitopes in these polypeptides were detected in many different patient sera. The clones encoding these polypeptides, and the location of the polypeptide in the putative HCV polyprotein (wherein the amino acid numbers begin with the putative initiator codon) are the following: clone 5-1-1, amino acids 1694-1735; clone C100, amino acids 1569-1931; clone 33c, amino acids 1192-1457; clone CA279a, amino acids 1-84; and clone CA290a amino acids 9-177. The location of the immunogenic polypeptides within the putative HCV polyprotein are shown immediately below.

Clones encoding polypeptides of proven reactivity with sera from NANBH patients.

[0184]

Clone	Location within the HCV polyprotein (amino acid no. beginning with putative initiator methionine)
CA279a	1-84
CA290a	9-177

[0185] The results on the immunogenicity of the polypeptides encoded in the various clones examined suggest efficient detection and immunization systems may include panels of HCV polypeptides/epitopes.

Expression of HCV Epitopes in Yeast

[0186] Three different yeast expression vectors which allow the insertion of HCV cDNA into three different reading frames are constructed. The construction of one of the vectors, pAB24C100-3 is described in EPO Pub. No. 318,216. In the studies below, the HCV cDNA from the clones listed in supra. in the antigenicity mapping study using the E. coli expressed products are substituted for the C100 HCV cDNA. The construction of the other vectors replaces the adaptor described in the above E. coli studies with one of the following adaptors:

Adaptor 1

ATT TTG AAT TCC TAA TGA G
AC TTA AGG ATT ACT CAG CT

Adaptor 2

AAT TTG GAA TTC TAA TGA G
AC CTT AAG ATT ACT CAG CT.

The inserted HCV cDNA is expressed in yeast transformed with the vectors, using the expression conditions described supra. for the expression of the fusion polypeptide, C100-3. The resulting polypeptides are screened using the sera from individuals with NANBH, described supra. for the screening of immunogenic polypeptides encoded in HCV cDNAs expressed in E. coli.

Comparison of the Hydrophobic Profiles of HCV Polyproteins with West Nile Virus Polyprotein and with Dengue Virus NS1

[0187] The hydrophobicity profile of an HCV polyprotein segment was compared with that of a typical Flavivirus, West Nile virus. The polypeptide sequence of the West Nile virus polyprotein was deduced from the known polynucleotide sequences encoding the non-structural proteins of that virus. The HCV polyprotein sequence was deduced from the sequence of overlapping cDNA clones. The profiles were determined using an antigen program which uses a window of 7 amino acid width (the amino acid in question, and 3 residues on each side) to report the average hydrophobicity about a given amino acid residue. The parameters giving the reactive hydrophobicity for each amino acid residue are from Kyte and Doolittle (1982). Fig. 19 shows the hydrophobic profiles of the two polyproteins; the areas corresponding to the non-structural proteins of West Nile virus, ns1 through ns5, are indicated in the figure. As seen in the figure, there is a general similarity in the profiles of the HCV polyprotein and the West Nile virus polyprotein.

[0188] The sequence of the amino acids encoded in the 5'-region of HCV cDNA shown in Fig. 16 has been compared with the corresponding region of one of the strains of Dengue virus, described supra., with respect to the profile of regions of hydrophobicity and hydrophilicity (data not shown). This comparison indicated that the polypeptides from HCV and Dengue encoded in this region, which corresponds to the region encoding NS1 (or a portion thereof), have

a similar hydrophobic/hydrophilic profile.

[0189] The similarity in hydrophobicity profiles, in combination with the previously identified homologies in the amino acid sequences of HCV and Dengue Flavivirus in EP 0,218,316 suggests that HCV is related to these members of the Flavivirus family.

Characterization of the Putative Polypeptides Encoded Within the HCV ORF

[0190] The sequence of the HCV cDNA sense strand, shown in Fig. 17, was deduced from the overlapping HCV cDNAs in the various clones described in EPO Pub. No. 318,216 and those described supra. It may be deduced from the sequence that the HCV genome contains primarily one long continuous ORF, which encodes a polyprotein. In the sequence, nucleotide number 1 corresponds to the first nucleotide of the initiator MET codon; minus numbers indicate that the nucleotides are that distance away in the 5'-direction (upstream), while positive numbers indicate that the nucleotides are that distance away in the 3'-direction (downstream). The composite sequence shows the "sense" strand of the HCV cDNA.

[0191] The amino acid sequence of the putative HCV polyprotein deduced from the HCV cDNA sense strand sequence is also shown in Fig. 17, where position 1 begins with the putative initiator methionine.

[0192] Possible protein domains of the encoded HCV polyprotein, as well as the approximate boundaries, are the following (the polypeptides identified within the parentheses are those which are encoded in the Flavivirus domain):

Putative Domain	Approximate Boundary (amino acid nos.)
"C" (nucleocapsid protein)	1-120
"E" (Virion envelope protein(s) and possibly matrix (M) proteins	120-400
"NS1" (complement fixation antigen?)	400-660
"NS2" (unknown function)	660-1050
"NS3" (protease?)	1050-1640
"NS4" (unknown function)	1640-2000
"NS5" (polymerase)	2000-? end

It should be noted, however, that hydrophobicity profiles (described infra), indicate that HCV diverges from the Flavivirus model, particularly with respect to the region upstream of NS2. Moreover, the boundaries indicated are not intended to show firm demarcations between the putative polypeptides.

The Hydrophilic and Antigenic Profile of the Polypeptide

[0193] Profiles of the hydrophilicity/hydrophobicity and the antigenic index of the putative polyprotein encoded in the HCV cDNA sequence shown in Fig. 16 were determined by computer analysis. The program for hydrophilicity/hydrophobicity was as described supra. The antigenic index results from a computer program which relies on the following criteria: 1) surface probability, 2) prediction of alpha-helicity by two different methods; 3) prediction of beta-sheet regions by two different methods; 4) prediction of U-turns by two different methods; 5) hydrophilicity/hydrophobicity; and flexibility. The traces of the profiles generated by the computer analyses are shown in Fig. 20. In the hydrophilicity profile, deflection above the abscissa indicates hydrophilicity, and below the abscissa indicates hydrophobicity. The probability that a polypeptide region is antigenic is usually considered to increase when there is a deflection upward from the abscissa in the hydrophilic and/or antigenic profile. It should be noted, however, that these profiles are not necessarily indicators of the strength of the immunogenicity of a polypeptide.

Identification of Co-linear Peptides in HCV and Flaviviruses

[0194] The amino acid sequence of the putative polyprotein encoded in the HCV cDNA sense strand was compared with the known amino acid sequences of several members of Flaviviruses. The comparison shows that homology is slight, but due to the regions in which it is found, it is probably significant. The conserved co-linear regions are shown in Fig. 21. The amino acid numbers listed below the sequences represent the number in the putative HCV polyprotein (See Fig. 17.)

[0195] The spacing of these conserved motifs is similar between the Flaviviruses and HCV, and implies that there is some similarity between HCV and these flaviviral agents.

[0196] The following listed materials are on deposit under the terms of the Budapest Treaty with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 12301 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, Maryland 20852, and have been assigned the following

EP 0 388 232 B9 (W1B1)

Accession Numbers.

lambda-gt11	ATCC No.	Deposit Date
HCV cDNA library	40394	1 Dec. 1987
clone 81	40388	17 Nov. 1987
clone 91	40389	17 Nov. 1987
clone 1-2	40390	17 Nov. 1987
clone 5-1-1	40391	18 Nov. 1987
clone 12f	40514	10 Nov. 1988
clone 35f	40511	10 Nov. 1988
clone 15e	40513	10 Nov. 1988
clone K9-1	40512	10 Nov. 1988
JSC 308	20879	5 May 1988
pS356	67683	29 April 1988

In addition, the following deposits were made on 11 May 1989.

Strain	Linkers	ATCC No.
D1210 (Cf1/5-1-1)	EF	67967
D1210 (Cf1/81)	EF	67968
D1210 (Cf1/CA74a)	EF	67969
D1210 (Cf1/35f)	AB	67970
D1210 (Cf1/279a)	EF	67971
D1210 (Cf1/C36)	CD	67972
D1210 (Cf1/13i)	AB	67973
D1210 (Cf1/C33b)	EF	67974
D1210 (Cf1/CA290a)	AB	67975
HB101 (AB24/C100 #3R)		67976

The following derivatives of strain D1210 were deposited on 3 May 1989.

Strain Derivative	ATCC No.
pCF1CS/C8f	67956
pCF1AB/C12f	67952
pCF1EF/14c	67949
pCF1EF/15e	67954
pCF1AB/C25c	67958
pCF1EF/C33c	67953
pCF1EF/C33f	67050
pCF1CD/33g	67951
pCF1CD/C39c	67955
pCF1EF/C40b	67957
pCF1EF/CA167b	67959

The following strains were deposited on May 12, 1989.

Strain	ATCC No.
Lambda gt11 (C35)	40603
Lambda gt10 (beta-5a)	40602
D1210 (C40b)	67980
D1210 (M16)	67981

[0197] The deposited materials mentioned herein are intended for convenience only, and are not required to practice the present invention in view of the descriptions herein, and in addition these materials are incorporated herein by reference.

Industrial Applicability

[0198] The invention, in the various manifestations disclosed herein, has many industrial uses, some of which are the following. The HCV cDNAs may be used for the design of probes for the detection of HCV nucleic acids in samples. The probes derived from the cDNAs may be used to detect HCV nucleic acids in, for example, chemical synthetic reactions. They may also be used in screening programs for anti-viral agents, to determine the effect of the agents in inhibiting viral replication in cell culture systems, and animal model systems. The HCV polynucleotide probes are also useful in detecting viral nucleic acids in humans, and thus, may serve as a basis for diagnosis of HCV infections in humans.

[0199] In addition to the above, the cDNAs provided herein provide information and a means for synthesizing polypeptides containing epitopes of HCV. These polypeptides are useful in detecting antibodies to HCV antigens. A series of immunoassays for HCV infection, based on recombinant polypeptides containing HCV epitopes are described herein, and will find commercial use in diagnosing HCV induced NANBH, in screening blood bank donors for HCV-caused infectious hepatitis, and also for detecting contaminated blood from infectious blood donors. The viral antigens will also have utility in monitoring the efficacy of anti-viral agents in animal model systems. In addition, the polypeptides derived from the HCV cDNAs disclosed herein will have utility as vaccines for treatment of HCV infections.

[0200] The polypeptides derived from the HCV cDNAs, besides the above stated uses, are also useful for raising anti-HCV antibodies. Thus, they may be used in anti-HCV vaccines. However, the antibodies produced as a result of immunization with the HCV polypeptides are also useful in detecting the presence of viral antigens in samples. Thus, they may be used to assay the production of HCV polypeptides in chemical systems. The anti-HCV antibodies may also be used to monitor the efficacy of anti-viral agents in screening programs where these agents are tested in tissue culture systems. They may also be used for passive immunotherapy, and to diagnose HCV caused NANBH by allowing the detection of viral antigen(s) in both blood donors and recipients. Another important use for anti-HCV antibodies is in affinity chromatography for the purification of virus and viral polypeptides. The purified virus and viral polypeptide preparations may be used in vaccines. However, the purified virus may also be useful for the development of cell culture systems in which HCV replicates.

[0201] Antisense polynucleotides may be used as inhibitors of viral replication.

[0202] For convenience, the anti-HCV antibodies and HCV polypeptides, whether natural or recombinant, may be packaged into kits.

Claims

Claims for the following Contracting States : AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, FR, GB, IT, LI, LU, NL, SE

1. A polypeptide in substantially isolated form comprising a contiguous sequence from a Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) polyprotein of at least 10 amino acids, wherein said contiguous sequence is within amino acids 1 to 449 of an HCV polyprotein, wherein HCV is **characterized by**:

a positive stranded RNA genome;
said genome comprising an open reading frame (ORF) encoding a polyprotein; and
the entirety of the said encoded polyprotein having at least 40% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

2. A polypeptide according to claim 1 wherein said polyprotein has at least 70% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

3. A polypeptide according to claim 1 wherein said polypeptide has at least 80% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of

which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

4. A polypeptide according to claim 1 wherein said polypeptide has at least 90% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

5. A polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said contiguous sequence is selected from within amino acids 1-84 or from within amino acids 9-177 of an HCV polyprotein.

6. A polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said contiguous sequence is within the sequences selected from the group consisting Figure 4, 11, 12 and 17.

7. A polypeptide according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said contiguous sequence comprises at least 15 amino acids.

8. A polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein said contiguous sequence has the formula AAx-AAy wherein x and y designate amino acid numbers shown in Figure 17:

AA1-AA25, AA1-AA50; AA1-AA84; AA9-AA177; AA1-AA10; AA5-AA20; AA35-AA45; AA50-AA100; AA40-AA90; AA45-AA65; AA65-AA75; AA80-AA90; AA99-AA120; AA95-AA110; AA105-AA120; AA100-AA150; AA150-AA200; AA155-AA170; AA190-AA210; AA200-AA250; AA220-AA240; AA245-AA265; AA250-AA300; AA290-AA330; AA290-305; AA300-AA350; AA310-AA330; AA350-AA400; AA380-AA395; AA405-AA495; AA400-AA450; AA405-AA415; AA415-AA425; AA425-AA435; AA440-AA460; AA437-AA582.

9. A polypeptide according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said polypeptide reacts immunologically with anti-HCV antibodies.

10. A polypeptide as defined in any one of the preceding claims attached to a solid substrate.

11. An immunoassay kit which comprises a polypeptide according to any one of the preceding claims in a suitable container.

12. An immunoassay method for detecting antibodies directed against a hepatitis C virus (HCV) polypeptide comprising:

(a) providing a first polypeptide that is immunologically reactive with anti-HCV antibodies as determined by competition in binding with a second polypeptide comprising an HCV antigenic sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids from within amino acid number 1-449 of an HCV polyprotein.

(b) incubating said first polypeptide with a biological sample under conditions that allow for the formation of an antibody-polypeptide complex; and

(c) detecting any antibody/polypeptide complexes comprising said polypeptide, wherein HCV is **characterized by:**

a positive stranded RNA genome;

said genome comprising an open reading frame (ORF) encoding a polyprotein; and

the entirety of the said encoded polyprotein having at least 40% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

13. An immunoassay according to claim 12 wherein said polyprotein has at least 70% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

14. An immunoassay according to claim 12 wherein said polyprotein has at least 80% homology to the entire polypro-

tein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

15. An immunoassay according to claim 12 wherein said polyprotein has at least 90% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

16. An immunoassay according to any one of claims 12 to 15 wherein said amino acids are selected from within amino acids 1-449 of the HCV polyprotein of Figure 17.

17. An immunoassay according to any one of claims 12 to 16 wherein said first polypeptide comprises an HCV antigenic sequence from within amino acid numbers 1-449 of the HCV polyprotein of Figure 17.

18. An immunoassay according to any one of claims 12 to 17 wherein the biological sample is human blood, serum or plasma.

19. A polynucleotide in substantially isolated form which comprises an HCV genomic sequence or the complement thereof which is selectively hybridizable to a polynucleotide found within nucleotides -319 to 1348 of an HCV genome or the complement thereof, wherein HCV is **characterized by**:

a positive stranded RNA genome;

said genome comprising an open reading frame (ORF) encoding a polyprotein; and

the entirety of the said encoded polyprotein having at least 40% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

20. A polynucleotide according to claim 19 wherein said polyprotein has at least 70% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

21. A polynucleotide according to claim 19 wherein said polyprotein has at least 80% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

22. A polynucleotide according to claim 19 wherein said polyprotein has at least 90% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

23. A polynucleotide according to any one of claims 19 to 22 wherein said HCV genomic sequence or the complement thereof is found within nucleotides -319 to 1348 or within nucleotides -319 to -1 of an HCV genome.

24. A polynucleotide according to any one of claims 19 to 23 wherein said HCV genomic sequence or the complement thereof is selected from the group of sequences found within Figures 11,12 and 17.

25. A polynucleotide according to any one of claims 19 to 24 which is DNA.

26. A polynucleotide according to any one of claim 19 to 25 which is a probe or a primer for DNA synthesis.

27. A polynucleotide according to claim 26 wherein the probe is labelled.

28. A kit for analysing biological samples for the presence of HCV polynucleotides which comprises a polynucleotide according to any one of claims 19 to 27 in a suitable container.

29. A method of detecting HCV nucleic acids in a sample which comprises:

- a. providing a polynucleotide as defined in any one of claims 19 to 27;
- b. reacting said polynucleotide with said sample under conditions which allow for the selective formation of polynucleotide duplexes between said polynucleotide and any HCV nucleic acid or HCV cDNA in said sample; and
- c. detecting any polynucleotide duplexes containing said polynucleotide.

30. A method for amplifying a polynucleotide of HCV in a sample which comprises:

- a. amplifying the polynucleotide of HCV using a DNA polymerase and at least one polynucleotide defined in any one of claims 19 to 27; and
- b. detecting the amplified polynucleotide.

31. A method according to either of claims 29 or 30 wherein said sample is human blood, serum, or plasma.

32. A recombinant vector comprising a polynucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein said sequence which encodes said polypeptide is operably linked to a control sequence capable of expressing the polypeptide.

33. A recombinant vector according to claim 32 wherein said polynucleotide is DNA

34. A host cell transformed with the vector according to either of claims 32 or 33.

35. A method of making an HCV polypeptide which comprises incubating a host cell according to claim 34 under conditions which permit expression of said sequence which encodes a polypeptide, and recovering the polypeptide.

36. A method of making an HCV polypeptide comprising chemically synthesizing a polypeptide according to any of claims 1 to 9.

37. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

- a. a polynucleotide as defined in any one of claims 19 to 25; or
- b. a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9; and
- c. a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

38. A method for preparing a host cell transformed with a recombinant vector according to claim 32 or 33 comprising:

- a. providing a host cell capable of transformation;
- b. providing the recombinant vector, and
- c. incubating (a) with (b) under conditions which allow transformation of the host cell with the vector.

39. A method for preparing a recombinant vector according to claim 32 or 33 comprising:

- a. providing a host cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide according to any one of claims 19 to 27; and
- b. isolating said polynucleotide from said host cell.

40. A method for producing a polynucleotide probe comprising chemically synthesizing a polynucleotide according to any of claims 19 to 27.

41. A method of preparing a supply of human biological samples prior to use said method comprising:

- (a) providing a supply of human biological samples; and
- (b) removing from said supply of human biological samples those samples containing:
 - (i) polynucleotides capable of detection in a method according to any of claims 29 or 30;
 - or (ii) antibodies capable of producing detectable polypeptide-antibody complexes in an immunoassay

according to any one of claims 12 to 18.

42. A method according to claim 41 wherein said human biological samples are blood, plasma or sera.

43. Use of a biological sample prepared according to the method of claim 41 or 42 for the preparation of blood-related products.

Claims for the following Contracting States : GR, SP

1. A method of preparing polypeptide in substantially isolated form said polypeptide comprising a contiguous sequence from a Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) polyprotein of at least 10 amino acids, wherein said contiguous sequence is within amino acids 1 to 449 of an HCV polyprotein, wherein HCV is **characterized by**:

a positive stranded RNA genome;

said genome comprising an open reading frame (ORF) encoding a polyprotein; and

the entirety of the said encoded polyprotein having at least 40% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394, **characterised in that** the method is selected from the group of methods comprising chemical synthesis, expression of a recombinant expression system and isolation from mutant HCV.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said polyprotein has at least 70% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said polyprotein has at least 80% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17 or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said polypeptide has at least 90% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said contiguous sequence is selected from within amino acids 1-84 or from within amino acids 9-177 of an HCV polyprotein.

6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said contiguous sequence is within the sequences selected from the group consisting Figure 4, 11, 12 and 17.

7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said contiguous sequence comprises at least 15 amino acids.

8. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein said contiguous sequence has the formula AAx-AAy wherein x and y designate amino acid numbers shown in Figure 17:

AA1-AA25, AA1-AA50; AA1-AA84; AA9-AA177; AA1-AA10; AA5-AA20; AA35-AA45; AA50-AA100; AA40-AA90; AA45-AA65; AA65-AA75; AA80-AA90; AA99-AA120; AA95-AA110; AA105-AA120; AA100-AA150; AA150-AA200; AA155-AA170; AA190-AA210; AA200-AA250; AA220-AA240; AA245-AA265; AA250-AA300; AA290-AA330; AA290-305; AA300-AA350; AA310-AA330; AA350-AA400; AA380-AA395; AA405-AA495; AA400-AA450, AA405-AA415; AA415-AA425; AA425-AA435; AA440-AA460; AA437-AA582.

9. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said polypeptide reacts immunologically with anti-HCV antibodies.

10. A method as defined in any one of the preceding claims further comprising attaching the polypeptide to a solid substrate.

11. An immunoassay method for detecting antibodies directed against a hepatitis C virus (HCV) polypeptide comprising:

(a) providing a first polypeptide that is immunologically reactive with anti-HCV antibodies as determined by competition in binding with a second polypeptide comprising an HCV antigenic sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids from within amino acid number 1-449 of an HCV polyprotein.

(b) incubating said first polypeptide with a biological sample under conditions that allow for the formation of an antibody-polypeptide complex; and

(c) detecting any antibody/polypeptide complexes comprising said polypeptide, wherein HCV is **characterized by**:

a positive stranded RNA genome;

said genome comprising an open reading frame (ORF) encoding a polyprotein; and

the entirety of the said encoded polyprotein having at least 40% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

12. An immunoassay method according to claim 11 wherein said polyprotein has at least 70% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

13. An immunoassay method according to claim 11 wherein said polyprotein has at least 80% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

14. An immunoassay method according to claim 11 wherein said polyprotein has at least 90% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

15. An immunoassay method according to any one of claims 11 to 14 wherein said amino acids are selected from within amino acids 1-449 of the HCV polyprotein of Figure 17.

16. An immunoassay method according to any one of claims 11 to 15 wherein said first polypeptide comprises an HCV antigenic sequence from within amino acid numbers 1-449 of the HCV polyprotein of Figure 17.

17. An immunoassay method according to any one of claims 11 to 16 wherein the biological sample is human blood, serum or plasma.

18. A method of preparing a polynucleotide in substantially isolated form said polynucleotide comprising an HCV genomic sequence or the complement thereof which is selectively hybridizable to a polynucleotide found within nucleotides -319 to 1348 of an HCV genome or the complement thereof, wherein HCV is **characterized by**:

a positive stranded RNA genome;

said genome comprising an open reading frame (ORF) encoding a polyprotein; and

the entirety of the said encoded polyprotein having at least 40% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394, **characterised in that** the method is selected from the group of methods comprising chemical synthesis, DNA replication, reverse transcription and transcription.

19. A method according to claim 18 wherein said polyprotein has at least 70% homology to the entire polyprotein

selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

20. A method according to claim 18 wherein said polyprotein has at least 80% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

21. A method according to claim 18 wherein said polyprotein has at least 90% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

22. A method according to any one of claims 18 to 21 wherein said HCV genomic sequence or the complement thereof is found within nucleotides -319 to 1348 or within nucleotides -319 to -1 of an HCV genome.

23. A method according to any one of claims 18 to 22 wherein said HCV genomic sequence or the complement thereof is selected from the group of sequences found within Figures 11, 12 and 17.

24. A method according to any one of claims 18 to 23 in which the polynucleotide is DNA.

25. A method according to any one of claim 18 to 24 in which the polynucleotide is a probe or a primer for DNA synthesis.

26. A method according to claim 25 wherein the probe is labelled.

27. A method of detecting HCV nucleic acids in a sample which comprises:

- a. providing a polynucleotide as defined in any one of claims 18 to 26;
- b. reacting said polynucleotide with said sample under conditions which allow for the selective formation of polynucleotide duplexes between said polynucleotide and any HCV nucleic acid or HCV cDNA in said sample; and
- c. detecting any polynucleotide duplexes containing said polynucleotide.

28. A method for amplifying, a polynucleotide of HCV in a sample which comprises:

- a. amplifying the polynucleotide of HCV using a DNA polymerase and at least one polynucleotide defined in any one of claims 18 to 25; and
- b. detecting the amplified polynucleotide.

29. A method according to either of claims 27 or 28 wherein said sample is human blood, serum, or plasma.

30. A method of preparing a recombinant vector comprising a polynucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein said sequence which encodes said polypeptide is operably linked to a control sequence capable of expressing the polypeptide **characterised in that** said method comprises obtaining fragments encoding the desired polypeptide from cDNA clones by restriction digestion or chemically synthesising said polynucleotide sequence and ligating said polynucleotide sequence into a vector.

31. A method according to claim 30 wherein said polynucleotide is DNA.

32. A method for preparing a host cell transformed with a recombinant vector as prepared in claim 30 or 31 comprising:

- a providing a host cell capable of transformation;
- b. providing the recombinant vector, and
- c. incubating (a) with (b) under conditions which allow transformation of the host cell with the vector.

33. A method of making an HCV polypeptide which comprises incubating a host cell prepared according to claim 32 under conditions which permit expression of said sequence which encodes a polypeptide, and recovering the

polypeptide.

34. A method for producing a polynucleotide probe comprising chemically synthesizing a polynucleotide as defined in any of claims 18 to 26.

35. A method of preparing a supply of human biological samples prior to use said method comprising:

(a) providing a supply of human biological samples; and

(b) removing from said supply of human biological samples those samples containing:

(i) polynucleotides capable of detection in a method according to any of claims 27 or 28;

or (ii) antibodies capable of producing detectable polypeptide-antibody complexes in an immunoassay method according to any one of claims 11 to 17.

36. A method according to claim 35 wherein said human biological samples are blood, plasma or sera.

37. A polypeptide in substantially isolated form comprising a contiguous sequence from a Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) polyprotein of at least 10 amino acids, wherein said contiguous sequence is within amino acids 1 to 449 of an HCV polyprotein, wherein HCV is **characterized by**:

a positive stranded RNA genome;

said genome comprising an open reading frame (ORF) encoding a polyprotein; and

the entirety of the said encoded polyprotein having at least 40% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

38. A polypeptide according to claim 37 wherein said polyprotein has at least 70% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

39. A polypeptide according to claim 37 wherein said polyprotein has at least 80% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

40. A polypeptide according to claim 37 wherein said polyprotein has at least 90% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

41. A polypeptide according to any one of claims 37 to 40 wherein said contiguous sequence is selected from within amino acids 1-84 or from within amino acids 9-177 of an HCV polyprotein.

42. A polypeptide according to any one of claims 37 to 41 wherein said contiguous sequence is within the sequences selected from the group consisting Figure 4, 11, 12 and 17.

43. A polypeptide according to any one of claims 37 to 42 wherein said contiguous sequence comprises at least 15 amino acids.

44. A polypeptide according to any one of claims 37 to 43 wherein said contiguous sequence has the formula AA_x-AA_y wherein x and y designate amino acid numbers shown in Figure 17:

AA1-AA25; AA1-AA50; AA1-AA84; AA9-AA177; AA1-AA10; AA5-AA20; AA35-AA45; AA50-AA100; AA40-AA90; AA45-AA65; AA65-AA75; AA80-AA90; AA99-AA120; AA95-AA110; AA105-AA120; AA100-AA150; AA150-AA200; AA155-AA170; AA190-AA210; AA200-AA250; AA220-AA240; AA245-AA265; AA250-AA300; AA290-AA330; AA290-305; AA300-AA350; AA310-AA330; AA350-AA400; AA380-AA395; AA405-AA495;

AA400-AA450; AA405-AA415; AA415-AA425; AA425-AA435; AA440-AA460; AA437-AA582.

45. A polypeptide according to any one of claims 37 to 44 wherein said polypeptide reacts immunologically with anti-HCV antibodies.

46. A polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 37 to 45 attached to a solid substrate.

47. An immunoassay kit which comprises a polypeptide according to any one of claims 37 to 46 in a suitable container.

48. A polynucleotide in substantially isolated form which comprises an HCV genomic sequence or the complement thereof which is selectively hybridizable to a polynucleotide found within nucleotides -319 to 1348 of an HCV genome or the complement thereof, wherein HCV is **characterized by**:

a positive stranded RNA genome;

said genome comprising an open reading frame (ORF) encoding a polyprotein; and

the entirety of the said encoded polyprotein having at least 40% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

49. A polynucleotide according to claim 48 wherein said polyprotein has at least 70% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

50. A polynucleotide according to claim 48 wherein said polyprotein has at least 80% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

51. A polynucleotide according to claim 48 wherein said polyprotein has at least 90% homology to the entire polyprotein selected from (i) the polyprotein as shown in Figure 17, or (ii) the polyprotein of a viral isolate from the genome of which was prepared cDNAs deposited in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under Accession No. 40394.

52. A polynucleotide according to claims 48 or 51 wherein said HCV genomic sequence or the complement thereof is found within nucleotides -319 to 1348 or within nucleotides -319 to -1 of an HCV genome.

53. A polynucleotide according to any one of claims 48 to 52 wherein said HCV genomic sequence or the complement thereof is selected from the group of sequences found within Figures 11, 12 and 17.

54. A polynucleotide according to any one of claims 48 to 53 which is DNA.

55. A polynucleotide according to any one of claim 48 to 54 which is a probe or a primer for DNA synthesis.

56. A polynucleotide according to claim 55 wherein the probe is labelled.

57. A kit for analysing biological samples for the presence of HCV polynucleotides which comprises a polynucleotide according to any one of claims 48 to 56 in a suitable container.

58. A recombinant vector comprising a polynucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 37 to 45 wherein said sequence which encodes said polypeptide is operably linked to a control sequence capable of expressing the polypeptide.

59. A recombinant vector according to claim 58 wherein said polynucleotide is DNA.

60. A host cell transformed with the vector according to either of claims 58 or 59.

61. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

- a. polynucleotide as defined in any one of claims 48 to 54; or
- b. a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 37 to 45; and
- c. a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Patentansprüche

Patentansprüche für folgende Vertragsstaaten : AT, DE, CH, De, DK, FR, GB, IT, LI, LU, NL, SE

1. Polypeptid in im Wesentlichen isolierter Form, das eine zusammenhängende Sequenz eines Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)-Polyproteins von mindestens 10 Aminosäuren umfasst, bei dem die zusammenhängende Sequenz im Bereich der Aminosäuren 1 bis 449 eines HCV-Polyproteins liegt, wobei HCV **gekennzeichnet ist durch**:

ein RNA-Genom mit Positivstrangordnung;

wobei das Genom einen für ein Polyprotein kodierenden offenen Leserahmen (ORF) umfasst; und die Gesamtheit des kodierten Polyproteins mindestens 40 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

2. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 1, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 70 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

3. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 1, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 80 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

4. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 1, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 90 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

5. Polypeptid nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, bei dem die zusammenhängende Sequenz ausgewählt ist, aus dem Bereich der Aminosäuren 1 - 84 oder dem Bereich der Aminosäuren 9 - 177 eines HCV-Polyproteins.

6. Polypeptid nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5, bei dem die zusammenhängende Sequenz innerhalb der Sequenzen liegt, die aus der Gruppe ausgewählt sind bestehend aus Figur 4, 11, 12 und 17.

7. Polypeptid nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, bei dem die zusammenhängende Sequenz mindestens 15 Aminosäuren umfasst.

8. Polypeptid nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 7, bei dem die zusammenhängende Sequenz die Formel AAx-AAy hat, bei der x und y die in Figur 17 dargestellten Aminosäurenummern angeben:

AA1-AA25, AA1-AA50, AA1-AA84, AA9-AA177, AA1-AA10, AA5-AA20, AA35-AA45, AA50-AA100, AA40-AA90, AA45-AA65, AA65-AA75, AA80-AA90, AA99-AA120, AA95-AA110, AA105-AA120, AA100-AA150, AA150-AA200, AA155-AA170, AA190-AA210, AA200-AA250, AA220-AA240, AA245-AA265, AA250-AA300, AA290-AA330, AA290-AA305, AA300-AA350, AA310-AA330, AA350-AA400, AA380-AA395, AA405-AA495, AA400-AA450, AA405-AA415, AA415-AA425, AA425-AA435, AA440-AA460, AA437-AA582.

9. Polypeptid nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, bei dem das Polypeptid immunologisch mit anti-HCV-An-

tikörpern reagiert.

10. Polypeptid, wie in einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche definiert, gebunden an ein festes Substrat.

11. Immuntest-Kit, das ein Polypeptid gemäß einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche in einem geeigneten Behälter umfasst.

12. Immuntest-Verfahren zum Detektieren von gegen ein Hepatitis C-Virus (HCV)-Polypeptid gerichtete Antikörpern, das die Schritte umfasst:

(a) Bereitstellen eines ersten Polypeptids, das immunologisch reaktiv mit anti-HCV-Antikörpern ist, bestimmt durch Bindungskonkurrenz mit einem zweiten Polypeptid, das eine HCV-antigenische Sequenz von mindestens 10 zusammenhängenden Aminosäuren aus dem Bereich der Aminosäurenummern 1-449 eines HCV-Polypeptids umfasst.

(b) Inkubieren des ersten Polypeptids mit einer biologischen Probe unter Bedingungen, welche die Bildung eines Antikörper-Polypeptid-Komplexes ermöglichen; und

(c) Detektieren jedes das Polypeptid umfassenden Antikörper-Polypeptid-Komplexes, wobei HCV **gekennzeichnet ist durch:**

ein RNA-Genom mit Positivstrangordnung;

wobei das Genom einen für ein Polyprotein kodierenden offenen Leserahmen (ORF) umfasst; und die Gesamtheit des kodierten Polyproteins mindestens 40 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

13. Immuntest nach Anspruch 12, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 70 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

14. Immuntest nach Anspruch 12, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 80 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

15. Immuntest nach Anspruch 12, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 90 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

16. Immuntest nach einem der Ansprüche 12 bis 15, bei dem die Aminosäuren aus dem Bereich der Aminosäurenummern 1-449 des HCV-Polypeptids aus Figur 17 ausgewählt sind.

17. Immuntest nach einem der Ansprüche 12 bis 16, bei dem das erste Polypeptid eine HCV-antigenische Sequenz aus dem Bereich der Aminosäurenummern 1-449 des HCV-Polypeptids aus Figur 17 umfasst.

18. Immuntest nach einem der Ansprüche 12 bis 17, bei dem die biologische Probe menschliches Blut, Serum oder Plasma ist.

19. Polynukleotid in im Wesentlichen isolierter Form, das eine HCV-genomische Sequenz oder deren Komplement umfasst, die selektiv an ein Polynukleotid hybridisierbar ist, das im Bereich der Nukleotide -319 bis 1348 eines HCV-Genoms oder dem Komplement davon vorkommt, wobei HCV **gekennzeichnet ist durch:**

ein RNA-Genom mit Positivstrangordnung;

wobei das Genom einen für ein Polyprotein kodierenden offenen Leserahmen (ORF) umfasst; und die Gesamtheit des kodierten Polyproteins mindestens 40 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

20. Polynukleotid nach Anspruch 19, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 70 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

21. Polynukleotid nach Anspruch 19, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 80 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

22. Polynukleotid nach Anspruch 19, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 90 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

23. Polynukleotid nach einem der Ansprüche 19 bis 22, bei dem die HCV-genomische Sequenz oder das Komplement davon innerhalb der Nukleotide -319 bis 1348 oder innerhalb der Nukleotide -319 bis -1 eines HCV-Genoms vorkommt.

24. Polynukleotid nach einem der Ansprüche 19 bis 23, bei dem die HCV-genomische Sequenz oder das Komplement davon ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe von Sequenzen, die innerhalb der Figuren 11, 12 und 17 gefunden wird.

25. Polynukleotid nach einem der Ansprüche 19 bis 24, das DNA ist.

26. Polynukleotid nach einem der Ansprüche 19 bis 25, das eine Sonde oder ein Primer für die DNA-Synthese ist.

27. Polynukleotid nach Anspruch 26, bei dem die Sonde markiert ist.

28. Kit zur Analyse biologischer Proben auf die Anwesenheit von HCV-Polynukleotiden, das ein Polynukleotid gemäß einem der Ansprüche 19 bis 27 in einem geeigneten Behälter umfasst.

29. Verfahren zum Detektieren von HCV-Nukleinsäuren in einer Probe, das die Schritte umfasst:

a. Bereitstellen eines Polynukleotids, wie es in einem der Ansprüche 19 bis 27 definiert ist;

b. Umsetzen des Polynukleotids mit der Probe unter Bedingungen, welche die selektive Bildung von Polynukleotidduplexen zwischen dem Polynukleotid und jeder HCV-Nukleinsäure oder HCV-cDNA in der Probe erlauben; und

c. Detektieren jedes der das Polynukleotid enthaltenden Polynukleotidduplexe.

30. Verfahren zum Amplifizieren eines Polynukleotids des HCV in einer Probe, das die Schritte umfasst:

a. Amplifizieren des Polynukleotids des HCV unter Verwendung einer DNA-Polymerase und mindestens eines in einem der Ansprüche 19 bis 27 definierten Polynukleotids; und

b. Detektieren des amplifizierten Polynukleotids.

31. Verfahren nach Anspruch 29 oder 30, bei dem die Probe menschliches Blut, Serum oder Plasma ist.

32. Rekombinanter Vektor, der eine Polynukleotidsequenz umfasst, die für ein Polypeptid wie in einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 9 definiert kodiert, wobei die Sequenz, die für das Polypeptid kodiert, funktional an eine Kontrollsequenz

gekoppelt ist, die zur Expression des Polypeptids befähigt ist.

33. Rekombinanter Vektor nach Anspruch 32, bei dem das Polynukleotid DNA ist.

34. Wirtszelle, die mit dem Vektor gemäß Anspruch 32 oder 33 transformiert ist.

35. Verfahren zum Herstellen eines HCV-Polypeptids, das Inkubieren einer Wirtszelle gemäß Anspruch 34 unter Bedingungen umfasst, welche die Expression der Sequenz, die für ein Polypeptid kodiert, und Gewinnung des Polypeptids erlauben.

36. Verfahren zum Herstellen eines HCV-Polypeptids, das chemisches Synthetisieren eines Polypeptids gemäß einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 9 umfasst.

37. Pharmazeutische Zusammensetzung, die

a. ein Polynukleotid wie in einem der Ansprüche 19 bis 25 definiert; oder

b. ein Polypeptid wie in einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 9 definiert; und

c. einen pharmazeutisch verträglichen Träger

umfasst.

38. Verfahren zum Herstellen einer mit einem rekombinanten Vektor gemäß Anspruch 32 oder 33 transformierten Wirtszelle, das die Schritte umfasst:

a. Bereitstellen einer zur Transformation befähigten Wirtszelle;

b. Bereitstellen des rekombinanten Vektors; und

c. Inkubieren von (a) mit (b) unter Bedingungen, welche die Transformation der Wirtszelle mit dem Vektor ermöglichen.

39. Verfahren zum Herstellen eines rekombinanten Vektors gemäß Anspruch 32 oder 33, das die Schritte umfasst:

a. Bereitstellen einer mit einem rekombinanten Polynukleotid gemäß einem der Ansprüche 19 bis 27 transformierten Wirtszelle; und

b. Isolieren des Polynukleotids aus der Wirtszelle.

40. Verfahren zum Erzeugen einer Polynukleotidsonde, das chemisches Synthetisieren eines Polynukleotids gemäß einem der Ansprüche 19 bis 27 umfasst.

41. Verfahren zum Herstellen eines Vorrats von humanen biologischen Proben vor deren Verwendung, wobei das Verfahren die Schritte umfasst:

(a) Bereitstellen eines Vorrats von humanen biologischen Proben; und

(b) Entfernen solcher Proben aus dem Vorrat von humanen biologischen Proben, die:

(i) zur Detektierung in einem Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 29 oder 30 befähigte Polynukleotide;

(ii) zur Bildung detektierbarer Polypeptid-Antikörper-Komplexe in einem Immuntest gemäß einem der Ansprüche 12 bis 18 befähigte Antikörper

enthalten.

42. Verfahren nach Anspruch 41, bei dem die humanen biologischen Proben Blut, Plasma oder Seren sind.

43. Verwendung einer biologischen Probe, die gemäß dem Verfahren aus Anspruch 41 oder 42 hergestellt wurde, für die Herstellung von Produkten, die im Zusammenhang mit Blut stehen.

Patentansprüche für folgende Vertragsstaaten : GR, SP

1. Verfahren zum Herstellen eines Polypeptids in im Wesentlichen isolierter Form, wobei das Polypeptid eine zusammenhängende Sequenz eines Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)-Polyproteins von mindestens 10 Aminosäuren umfasst, wobei sich die zusammenhängende Sequenz im Bereich der Aminosäuren 1 bis 449 eines HCV-Polyproteins befindet, wobei HCV **gekennzeichnet ist durch:**

ein RNA-Genom mit Positivstrangordnung;

wobei das Genom einen für ein Polyprotein kodierenden offenen Leserahmen (ORF) umfasst; und die Gesamtheit des kodierten Polyproteins mindestens 40 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Verfahren ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe von Verfahren, die chemische Synthese, Expression eines rekombinanten Expressionssystems und Isolierung von HCV-Mutanten umfasst.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 70 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 80 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 90 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

5. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, bei dem die zusammenhängende Sequenz ausgewählt ist aus dem Bereich der Aminosäuren 1 - 84 oder dem Bereich der Aminosäuren 9 - 177 eines HCV-Polyproteins.

6. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5, bei dem sich die zusammenhängende Sequenz innerhalb der Sequenzen befindet, die aus der Gruppe ausgewählt sind bestehend aus Figur 4, 11, 12 und 17.

7. Verfahren nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, bei dem die zusammenhängende Sequenz mindestens 15 Aminosäuren umfasst.

8. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 7, bei dem die zusammenhängende Sequenz die Formel AAx-AAy hat, bei der x und y die in Figur 17 dargestellten Aminosäurenummern angeben:

AA1-AA25, AA1-AA50, AA1-AA84, AA9-AA177, AA1-AA10, AA5-AA20, AA35-AA45, AA50-AA100, AA40-AA90, AA45-AA65; AA65-AA75, AA80-AA90, AA99-AA120, AA95-AA110, AA105-AA120, AA100-AA150, AA150-AA200, AA155-AA170, AA190-AA210, AA200-AA250, AA220-AA240, AA245-AA265, AA250-AA300, AA290-AA330, AA290-AA305, AA300-AA350, AA310-AA330, AA350-AA400, AA380-AA395, AA405-AA495, AA400-AA450, AA405-AA415, AA415-AA425, AA425-AA435, AA440-AA460, AA437-AA582.

9. Verfahren nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, bei dem das Polypeptid immunologisch mit anti-HCV-Antikörpern reagiert.

10. Verfahren, wie in einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche definiert, das ferner die Bindung des Polypeptids an ein

festes Substrat umfasst.

11. Immuntest-Verfahren zum Detektieren von gegen ein Hepatitis C-Virus (HCV)-Polypeptid gerichtete Antikörpern, das die Schritte umfasst:

(a) Bereitstellen eines ersten Polypeptids, das immunologisch reaktiv mit anti-HCV-Antikörpern ist, bestimmt durch Bindungskonkurrenz mit einem zweiten Polypeptid, das eine HCV-antigenische Sequenz von mindestens 10 zusammenhängenden Aminosäuren aus dem Bereich der Aminosäurenummern 1-449 eines HCV-Polypeptids umfasst.

(b) Inkubieren des ersten Polypeptids mit einer biologischen Probe unter Bedingungen, welche die Bildung eines Antikörper-Polypeptid-Komplexes ermöglichen; und

(c) Detektieren jedes das Polypeptid umfassenden Antikörper-Polypeptid-Komplexe, bei denen HCV **gekennzeichnet ist durch:**

ein RNA-Genom mit Positivstrangordnung;

wobei das Genom einen für ein Polyprotein kodierenden offenen Leserahmen (ORF) umfasst; und die Gesamtheit des kodierten Polyproteins mindestens 40 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

12. Immuntest-Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 70 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

13. Immuntest-Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 80 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

14. Immuntest-Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 90 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

15. Immuntest-Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 11 bis 14, bei dem die Aminosäuren aus dem Bereich der Aminosäurenummern 1-449 des HCV-Polypeptids aus Figur 17 ausgewählt sind.

16. Immuntest-Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 11 bis 15, bei dem das erste Polypeptid eine HCV-antigenische Sequenz aus dem Bereich der Aminosäurenummern 1-449 des HCV-Polypeptids aus Figur 17 umfasst.

17. Immuntest-Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 11 bis 16, bei dem die biologische Probe menschliches Blut, Serum oder Plasma ist.

18. Verfahren zum Herstellen eines Polynukleotids in im Wesentlichen isolierter Form, wobei das Polynukleotid eine HCV-genomische Sequenz oder deren Komplement umfasst, die selektiv an ein Polynukleotid hybridisierbar ist, das im Bereich der Nukleotide -319 bis 1348 eines HCV-Genoms oder dem Komplement davon vorkommt, wobei HCV **gekennzeichnet ist durch:**

ein RNA-Genom mit Positivstrangordnung;

wobei das Genom einen für ein Polyprotein kodierenden offenen Leserahmen (ORF) umfasst; und die Gesamtheit des kodierten Polyproteins mindestens 40 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates

des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden,
dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Verfahren ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe von Verfahren, die chemische Synthese, DNA-Replikation, reverse Transkription und Transkription umfasst.

- 5 19. Verfahren nach Anspruch 18, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 70 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.
- 10 20. Verfahren nach Anspruch 18, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 80 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.
- 15 21. Verfahren nach Anspruch 18, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 90 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.
- 20 22. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 18 bis 21, bei dem die HCV-genomische Sequenz oder das Komplement davon innerhalb der Nukleotide -319 bis 1348 oder innerhalb der Nukleotide -319 bis -1 eines HCV-Genoms vorkommt.
- 25 23. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 18 bis 22, bei dem die HCV-genomische Sequenz oder das Komplement davon ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe von Sequenzen, die innerhalb der Figuren 11, 12 und 17 gefunden wird.
- 30 24. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 18 bis 23, bei dem das Polynukleotid DNA ist.
- 30 25. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 18 bis 24, bei dem das Polynukleotid eine Sonde oder ein Primer für die DNA-Synthese ist.
- 35 26. Verfahren nach Anspruch 25, bei dem die Sonde markiert ist.
- 35 27. Verfahren zum Detektieren von HCV-Nukleinsäuren in einer Probe, das die Schritte umfasst:
 - a. Bereitstellen eines Polynukleotids, wie es in einem der Ansprüche 18 bis 26 definiert ist;
 - 40 b. Reagieren des Polynukleotids mit der Probe unter Bedingungen, welche die selektive Bildung von Polynukleotidduplexen zwischen dem Polynukleotid und jeder HCV-Nukleinsäure oder HCV-cDNA in der Probe erlauben; und
 - c. Detektieren jedes das Polynukleotid enthaltenden Polynukleotidduplexe.
- 45 28. Verfahren zum Amplifizieren eines Polynukleotids des HCV in einer Probe, das die Schritte umfasst:
 - a. Amplifizieren des Polynukleotids des HCV unter Verwendung einer DNA-Polymerase und mindestens eines in einem der Ansprüche 18 bis 25 definierten Polynukleotids; und
 - 50 b. Detektieren des amplifizierten Polynukleotids.
- 50 29. Verfahren nach Anspruch 27 oder 28, bei dem die Probe menschliches Blut, Serum oder Plasma ist.
- 55 30. Verfahren zum Herstellen eines rekombinanten Vektors, der eine Polynukleotidsequenz umfasst, die für ein Polypeptid wie in einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 9 definiert kodiert, wobei die Sequenz, die für das Polypeptid kodiert, funktional an eine Kontrollsequenz gekoppelt ist, die zur Expression des Polypeptids befähigt ist, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** das Verfahren die Gewinnung von für das gewünschte Polypeptid kodierenden Fragmenten aus cDNA-Klonen durch Restriktionsverdau oder chemisches Synthetisieren der Polynukleotidsequenz und Ligieren der Polynukleotidsequenz in einen Vektor umfasst.

31. Verfahren nach Anspruch 30, bei dem das Polynukleotid DNA ist.
32. Verfahren zum Herstellen einer mit einem gemäß Anspruch 30 oder 31 hergestellten rekombinanten Vektor transformierten Wirtszelle, das die Schritte umfasst:
- Bereitstellen einer zur Transformation befähigten Wirtszelle;
 - Bereitstellen des rekombinanten Vektors; und
 - Inkubieren von (a) mit (b) unter Bedingungen, welche die Transformation der Wirtszelle mit dem Vektor ermöglichen.
33. Verfahren zum Herstellen eines HCV-Polypeptids, das Inkubieren einer Wirtszelle gemäß Anspruch 32 unter Bedingungen umfasst, welche die Expression der Sequenz, die für ein Polypeptid kodiert, und Gewinnung des Polypeptids erlauben.
34. Verfahren zum Erzeugen einer Polynukleotidsonde, das chemisches Synthetisieren eines Polynukleotids gemäß einem der Ansprüche 18 bis 26 umfasst.
35. Verfahren zum Herstellen eines Vorrats von humanen biologischen Proben vor deren Verwendung, wobei das Verfahren die Schritte umfasst:
- Bereitstellen eines Vorrats von humanen biologischen Proben; und
 - Entfernen solcher Proben aus dem Vorrat von humanen biologischen Proben, die:
 - zur Detektierung in einem Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 27 oder 28 befähigte Polynukleotide;
 - zur Bildung detektierbarer Polypeptid-Antikörper-Komplexe in einem Immuntest-Verfahren gemäß einem der Ansprüche 11 bis 17 befähigte Antikörperenthalten.
36. Verfahren nach Anspruch 35, bei dem die humanen biologischen Proben Blut, Plasma oder Seren sind.
37. Polypeptid in im Wesentlichen isolierter Form, das eine zusammenhängende Sequenz eines Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)-Polyproteins von mindestens 10 Aminosäuren umfasst, bei dem die zusammenhängende Sequenz im Bereich der Aminosäuren 1 bis 449 eines HCV-Polyproteins liegt, wobei HCV **gekennzeichnet ist durch:**
- ein RNA-Genom mit Positivstrangordnung; wobei das Genom einen für ein Polyprotein kodierenden offenen Leserahmen (ORF) umfasst; und
 - die Gesamtheit des kodierten Polyproteins mindestens 40 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.
38. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 37, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 70 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.
39. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 37, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 80 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.
40. Polypeptid nach Anspruch 37, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 90 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen

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Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

41. Polypeptid nach einem der Ansprüche 37 bis 40, bei dem die zusammenhängende Sequenz ausgewählt ist aus dem Bereich der Aminosäuren 1 - 84 oder dem Bereich der Aminosäuren 9 - 177 eines HCV-Polypeptids.

42. Polypeptid nach einem der Ansprüche 37 bis 41, bei dem die zusammenhängende Sequenz innerhalb der Sequenzen liegt, die aus der Gruppe ausgewählt sind bestehend aus Figur 4, 11, 12 und 17.

43. Polypeptid nach einem der Ansprüche 37 bis 42, bei dem die zusammenhängende Sequenz mindestens 15 Aminosäuren umfasst.

44. Polypeptid nach einem der Ansprüche 37 bis 43, bei dem die zusammenhängende Sequenz die Formel AAx-AAy hat, bei der x und y die in Figur 17 dargestellten Aminosäurenummern angeben:

AA1-AA25, AA1-AA50, AA1-AA84, AA9-AA177, AA1-AA10, AA5-AA20, AA35-AA45, AA50-AA100, AA40-AA90, AA45-AA65, AA65-AA75, AA80-AA90, AA99-AA120, AA95-AA110, AA105-AA120, AA100-AA150, AA150-AA200, AA155-AA170, AA190-AA210, AA200-AA250, AA220-AA240, AA245-AA265, AA250-AA300, AA290-AA330, AA290-AA305, AA300-AA350, AA310-AA330, AA350-AA400, AA380-AA395, AA405-AA495, AA400-AA450, AA405-AA415, AA415-AA425, AA425-AA435, AA440-AA460, AA437-AA582.

45. Polypeptid nach einem der Ansprüche 37 bis 44, bei dem das Polypeptid immunologisch mit anti-HCV-Antikörpern reagiert.

46. Polypeptid, wie in einem der Ansprüche 37 bis 45 definiert, gebunden an ein festes Substrat.

47. Immuntest-Kit, das ein Polypeptid gemäß einem der Ansprüche 37 bis 46 in einem geeigneten Behälter umfasst.

48. Polynukleotid in im Wesentlichen isolierter Form, das eine HCV-genomische Sequenz oder deren Komplement umfasst, die selektiv an ein Polynukleotid hybridisierbar ist, das im Bereich der Nukleotide -319 bis 1348 eines HCV-Genoms oder dem Komplement davon vorkommt, wobei HCV **gekennzeichnet ist durch:**

ein RNA-Genom mit Positivstrangordnung;

wobei das Genom einen für ein Polyprotein kodierenden offenen Leserahmen (ORF) umfasst; und die Gesamtheit des kodierten Polyproteins mindestens 40 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

49. Polynukleotid nach Anspruch 48, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 70 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

50. Polynukleotid nach Anspruch 48, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 80 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

51. Polynukleotid nach Anspruch 48, bei dem das Polyprotein mindestens 90 % Homologie zu dem gesamten Polyprotein hat, das ausgewählt ist aus (i) dem wie in Figur 17 gezeigten Polyprotein, oder (ii) dem Polyprotein eines viralen Isolates des Genoms, von dem die in einer Lambda gt-11 cDNA-Bibliothek bei der American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) mit der Zugangskodenummer 40394 hinterlegten cDNAs hergestellt wurden.

52. Polynukleotid nach einem der Ansprüche 48 oder 51, bei dem die HCV-genomische Sequenz oder das Komplement davon innerhalb der Nukleotide -319 bis 1348 oder innerhalb der Nukleotide -319 bis -1 eines HCV-Genoms vorkommt.

53. Polynukleotid nach einem der Ansprüche 48 bis 52, bei dem die HCV-genomische Sequenz oder das Komplement davon ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe von Sequenzen, die innerhalb der Figuren 11, 12 und 17 gefunden wird.

54. Polynukleotid nach einem der Ansprüche 48 bis 53, das DNA ist.

55. Polynukleotid nach einem der Ansprüche 48 bis 54, das eine Sonde oder ein Primer für die DNA-Synthese ist.

56. Polynukleotid nach Anspruch 55, bei dem die Sonde markiert ist.

57. Kit zur Analyse biologischer Proben auf die Anwesenheit von HCV-Polynukleotiden, das ein Polynukleotid gemäß einem der Ansprüche 48 bis 56 in einem geeigneten Behälter umfasst.

58. Rekombinanter Vektor, der eine Polynukleotidsequenz umfasst, die für ein Polypeptid wie in einem der Ansprüche 37 bis 45 definiert kodiert, wobei die Sequenz, die für das Polypeptid kodiert, funktional an eine Kontrollsequenz gekoppelt ist, die zur Expression des Polypeptids befähigt ist.

59. Rekombinanter Vektor nach Anspruch 58, bei dem das Polynukleotid DNA ist.

60. Wirtszelle, die mit dem Vektor gemäß Anspruch 58 oder 59 transformiert ist.

61. Pharmazeutische Zusammensetzung, die

a. ein Polynukleotid wie in einem der Ansprüche 48 bis 54 definiert; oder

b. ein Polypeptid wie in einem der Ansprüche 37 bis 45 definiert; und

c. einen pharmazeutisch verträglichen Träger

umfasst.

Revendications

Revendications pour les Etats contractants suivants : AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, FR, GB, IT, LI, LU, NL, SE

1. Polypeptide sous forme essentiellement isolée comprenant une séquence contiguë issue d'une polyprotéine du virus de l'hépatite C (VHC) d'au moins 10 acides aminés, dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë est comprise entre les acides aminés 1 et 449 d'une polyprotéine du VHC, dans lequel le VHC se **caractérise par** :

un génome si le brin de polarité positive :

ledit génome comprenant un cadre ouvert de lecture (ORF) codant une polyprotéine ; et l'intégralité de ladite polyprotéine codée ayant au moins 40 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

2. Polypeptide selon la revendication 1 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 70 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

3. Polypeptide selon la revendication 1 dans lequel ledit polypeptide a au moins 80 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

4. Polypeptide selon la revendication 1 dans lequel ledit polypeptide a au moins 90 % d'homologie la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

5. Polypeptide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4 dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë est choisie entre les acides aminés 1 et 84 ou entre les acides aminés 9 et 177 d'une polyprotéine du VHC.

6. Polypeptide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5 dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë est comprise dans les séquences sélectionnées dans le groupe constitué par les figures 4, 11; 12 et 17.

7. Polypeptide selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë comprend au moins 15 acides aminés.

8. Polypeptide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 7 dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë est de formule AAx-AAy dans laquelle x et y désignent les numéros des acides aminés illustrés en figure 17 :

AA1-AA25, AA1-AA50; AA1-AA84; AA9-AA177; AA1-AA10; AA5-AA20; AA35-AA45, AA50-AA100; AA40-AA90; AA45-AA65; AA65-AA75; AA80-AA90; AA99-AA120; AA95-AA110; AA105-AA120; AA100-AA150; AA150-AA200; AA155-AA170; AA190-AA210; AA200-AA250; AA220-AA240; AA245-AA265; AA250-AA300; AA290-AA330; AA290-AA305; AA300-AA350; AA310-AA330; AA350-AA400; AA380-AA395; AA405-AA495; AA400-AA450; AA405-AA415; AA415-AA425-AA425-AA435; AA440-AA460; AA437-AA582.

9. Polypeptide selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes dans lequel ledit polypeptide réagit immunologiquement avec des anticorps anti-VHC.

10. Polypeptide tel que défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes fixé à un substrat solide.

11. Kit d'essai immunologique qui comprend un polypeptide selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes dans un conteneur approprié.

12. Procédé d'essai immunologique de détection d'anticorps dirigés contre un polypeptide du virus de l'hépatite C (VHC) comprenant les étapes consistant à:

(a) fournir un premier polypeptide qui est immunologiquement réactif avec des anticorps anti-VHC comme déterminé par compétition avec la liaison d'un second polypeptide comprenant une séquence antigénique VHC d'au moins 10 acides aminés contigus comprise entre les acides aminés numéro 1 et 449 d'une polyprotéine du VHC.

(b) incuber ledit premier polypeptide avec un échantillon biologique dans des conditions qui permettent la formation d'un complexe anticorps-polypeptide; et

(c) détecter tout complexes anticorps-polypeptide comprenant ledit polypeptide, dans lequel le VHC se **caractérise par** :

un génome ARN simple brin de polarité positive ;

ledit génome comprenant un cadre ouvert de lecture (ORF) codant une polyprotéine ; et

l'intégralité de ladite polyprotéine codée ayant au moins 40 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

13. Essai immunologique selon la revendication 12 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 70 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

14. Essai immunologique selon la revendication 12 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 80 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une bibliothèque d'ADNc lambda gt-11

auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

15. Essai immunologique selon la revendication 12 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 90 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

16. Essai immunologique selon l'une quelconque des revendications 12 à 15 dans lequel lesdits acides aminés sont choisis à partir des acides aminés 1 à 449 de la polyprotéine du VHC de la figure 17.

17. Essai immunologique selon l'une quelconque des revendications 12 à 16 dans lequel ledit premier polypeptide comprend une séquence antigénique du VHC comprise entre les acides aminés numéros 1 et 449 de la polyprotéine du VHC de la figure 17.

18. Essai immunologique selon l'une quelconque des revendications 12 à 17 dans lequel l'échantillon biologique est du sang, du sérum ou du plasma humain.

19. Polynucléotide sous forme essentiellement isolée qui comprend une séquence génomique du VHC ou le complément de celle-ci qui est sélectivement hybridable à un polynucléotide présent entre les nucléotides -319 et 1348 d'un génome du VHC ou du complément de celui-ci, dans lequel le VHC se **caractérise par** :

un génome ARN simple brin de polarité positive ;
ledit génome comprenant un cadre ouvert de lecture (ORF) codant une polyprotéine ; et
l'intégralité de ladite polyprotéine codée ayant au moins 40 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

20. Polynucléotide selon la revendication 19 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 70 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

21. Polynucléotide selon la revendication 19 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 80 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

22. Polynucléotide selon la revendication 19 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 90 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel étaient préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

23. Polynucléotide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 19 à 22 dans lequel ladite séquence génomique du VHC ou le complément de celle-ci est compris(e) entre les nucléotides -319 et 1348 ou entre les nucléotides -319 et -1 d'un génome du VHC.

24. Polynucléotide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 19 à 23 dans lequel ladite séquence génomique du VHC ou le complément de celle-ci est choisi(e) à partir du groupe de séquences présent sur les figures 11, 12 et 17.

25. Polynucléotide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 19 à 24 qui est de l'ADN.

26. Polynucléotide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 19 à 25 qui est une sonde ou une amorce pour la synthèse d'ADN.

27. Polynucléotide selon la revendication 26 dans lequel la sonde est marquée.

28. Kit d'analyse d'échantillons biologiques pour détecter la présence de polynucléotides du VHC qui comprend un

polynucléotide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 19 à 27 dans un conteneur approprié.

29. Procédé de détection d'acides nucléiques du VHC dans un échantillon qui comprend les étapes consistant à :

- a. fournir un polynucléotide tel que défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications 19 à 27 ;
- b. faire réagir ledit polynucléotide avec ledit échantillon dans des conditions qui permettent la formation sélective de duplexes polynucléotidiques entre ledit polynucléotide et tout acide nucléique du VHC ou tout ADNc du VHC dans ledit échantillon; et
- c. détecter tout duplex polynucléotidique contenant ledit polynucléotide.

30. Procédé d'amplification d'un polynucléotide du VHC dans un échantillon qui comprend les étapes consistant à :

- a. amplifier le polynucléotide du VHC en utilisant une ADN polymérase et au moins un polynucléotide défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications 19 à 27 ; et
- b. détecter le polynucléotide amplifié.

31. Procédé selon la revendication 29 ou 30 dans lequel ledit échantillon est du sang, du sérum ou du plasma humain.

32. Vecteur recombinant comprenant une séquence polynucléotidique qui code un polypeptide tel que défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 9 dans lequel ladite séquence qui code ledit polypeptide est liée de manière fonctionnelle à une séquence contrôle capable d'exprimer le polypeptide.

33. Vecteur recombinant selon la revendication 32 dans lequel ledit polynucléotide est de l'ADN.

34. Cellule hôte transformée par le vecteur selon la revendication 32 ou 33.

35. Procédé de fabrication d'un polypeptide du VHC qui comprend l'incubation d'une cellule hôte selon la revendication 34 dans des conditions qui permettent l'expression de ladite séquence qui code un polypeptide; et la récupération du polypeptide.

36. Procédé de fabrication d'un polypeptide du VHC comprenant la synthèse chimique d'un polypeptide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 9.

37. Composition pharmaceutique comprenant :

- a. un polynucléotide tel que défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications 19 à 25 ; ou
- b. un polypeptide tel que défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 9 ; et
- c. un véhicule pharmaceutiquement acceptable.

38. Procédé de préparation d'une cellule hôte transformée par un vecteur recombinant selon l'une quelconque des revendications 32 ou 33 comprenant les étapes consistant à :

- a. fournir une cellule hôte capable de transformation ;
- b. fournir le vecteur recombinant ; et
- c. incubé (a) avec (b) dans des conditions qui permettent la transformation de la cellule hôte par le vecteur.

39. Procédé de préparation d'un vecteur recombinant selon la revendication 32 ou 33 comprenant les étapes consistant à :

- a. fournir une cellule hôte transformée par un polynucléotide recombinant selon l'une quelconque des revendications 19 à 27; et
- b. isoler ledit polynucléotide à partir de ladite cellule hôte.

40. Procédé de production d'une sonde polynucléotidique comprenant la synthèse chimique d'un polynucléotide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 19 à 27.

41. Procédé de préparation d'un approvisionnement d'échantillons biologiques humains avant usage ledit procédé comprenant les étapes consistant à :

- (a) fournir un approvisionnement d'échantillons biologiques humains ; et
(b) retirer dudit approvisionnement d'échantillons biologiques humains les échantillons contenant :

(i) des polynucléotides capables de détection dans un procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 29 ou 30 ;
ou (ii) des anticorps capables de produire des complexes polypeptide-anticorps détectables dans un essai immunologique selon l'une quelconque des revendications 12 à 18.

42. Procédé selon la revendication 41 dans lequel lesdits échantillons biologiques humains sont du sang, du plasma ou du sérum.

43. Utilisation d'un échantillon biologique préparé selon le procédé selon la revendication 41 ou 42 pour la préparation de produits dérivés sanguins.

Revendications pour les Etats contractants suivants : SP, GR

1. Procédé de préparation d'un polypeptide sous forme essentiellement isolée, ledit polypeptide comprenant une séquence contiguë issue d'une polyprotéine du virus de l'hépatite C (VHC) d'au moins 10 acides aminés, dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë est comprise entre les acides aminés 1 et 449 d'une polyprotéine du VHC, dans lequel le VHC se **caractérise par** :

un génome ARN simple brin de polarité positive ;
ledit génome comprenant un cadre ouvert de lecture (ORF) codant une polyprotéine ; et
l'intégralité de ladite polyprotéine codée ayant au moins 40 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394, **caractérisé en ce que** le procédé est choisi parmi le groupe de procédés comprenant la synthèse chimique, l'expression d'un système d'expression recombinant et l'isolation à partir d'un VHC mutant.

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 70 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

3. Procédé selon la revendication 1 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 80 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

4. Procédé selon la revendication 1 dans lequel ledit polypeptide a au moins 90 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

5. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4 dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë est choisie à partir des acides aminés 1 à 84 ou à partir des acides aminés 9 à 177 d'une polyprotéine du VHC.

6. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5 dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë est comprise dans les séquences sélectionnées dans le groupe constitué par les figures 4, 11, 12 et 17.

7. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë comprend au moins 15 acides aminés.

8. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 7 dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë est de formule AAX-AAy dans laquelle x et y désignent les numéros des acides aminés illustrés en figure 17 :

AA1-AA25;AA1-AA50;AA1-AA84;AA9-AA177;AA1-AA10; AA5-AA20;AA35-AA45;AA50-AA100;AA40-AA90;
AA45-AA65; AA65-AA75;AA80-AA90;AA99-AA120;AA95-AA110;AA105-AA120; AA100-AA150;
AA150-AA200;AA155-AA170;AA190-AA210; AA200-AA250;AA220-AA240;AA245-AA265;AA250-AA300;
AA290-AA330;AA290-AA305;AA300-AA350;AA310-AA330; AA350-AA400;AA380-AA395;AA45-AA495;
AA400-AA450; AA405-AA415;AA415-AA425;AA425-AA435;AA440-AA460; AA437-AA582.

9. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes dans lequel ledit polypeptide réagit immunologiquement avec des anticorps anti-VHC.

10. Procédé tel que défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes comprenant en outre l'étape, consistant à fixer le polypeptide à un substrat solide.

11. Procédé d'essai immunologique de détection d'anticorps dirigés contre un polypeptide du virus de l'hépatite C (VHC) comprenant les étapes consistant à :

(a) fournir un premier polypeptide qui est immunologiquement réactif avec des anticorps anti-VHC comme déterminé par compétition avec la liaison d'un second polypeptide comprenant une séquence antigénique VHC d'au moins 10 acides aminés contigus comprise entre les acides aminés numéro 1 et 449 d'une protéine du VHC.

(b) incubé ledit premier polypeptide avec un échantillon biologique dans des conditions qui permettent la formation d'un complexe anticorps-polypeptide ; et

(c) détecter tout complexe anticorps-polypeptide comprenant ledit polypeptide, dans lequel le VHC se **caractérise par** :

un génome ARN simple brin de polarité positive ;

ledit génome comprenant un cadre ouvert de lecture (ORF) codant une polyprotéine ; et

l'intégralité de ladite polyprotéine codée ayant au moins 40 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

12. Procédé d'essai immunologique selon la revendication 11 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 70 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

13. Procédé d'essai immunologique selon la revendication 11 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 80 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

14. Procédé d'essai immunologique selon la revendication 11 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 90 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

15. Procédé d'essai immunologique selon l'une quelconque des revendications 11 à 14 dans lequel lesdits acides aminés sont choisis à partir des acides aminés 1 à 449 de la polyprotéine du VHC de la figure 17.

16. Procédé d'essai immunologique selon l'une quelconque des revendications 11 à 15 dans lequel ledit premier polypeptide comprend une séquence antigénique du VHC choisie à partir des acides aminés numéros 1 à 449 de la polyprotéine du VHC de la figure 17.

17. Essai immunologique selon l'une quelconque des revendications 11 à 16 dans lequel l'échantillon biologique est du sang, du sérum ou du plasma humain.

18. Procédé de préparation d'un polynucléotide sous forme essentiellement isolée ledit polynucléotide comprenant une séquence génomique du VHC ou le complément de celle-ci qui est sélectivement hybridable à un polynucléo-

tide présent entre les nucléotides -319 et 1348 d'un génome au VHC ou complément de celui-ci, dans lequel le VHC se **caractérise par** :

un génome ARN simple brin de polarité positive ;

ledit génome comprenant un cadre ouvert de lecture (ORF) codant une polyprotéine ; et

l'intégralité de ladite polyprotéine codée ayant au moins 40 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394, **caractérisé en ce que** le procédé est choisi parmi le groupe de procédés comprenant la synthèse chimique, la réplication d'ADN, la transcription inverse et la transcription.

19. Procédé selon la revendication 18 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 70 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome à partir duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

20. Procédé selon la revendication 18 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 80 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

21. Procédé selon la revendication 18 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 90 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure. 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

22. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 18 à 21 dans lequel ladite séquence génomique du VHC ou le complément de celle-ci est compris(e) entre les nucléotides -319 et 1348 ou entre les nucléotides -319 et -1 d'un génome du VHC.

23. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 18 à 22 dans lequel ladite séquence génomique du VHC ou le complément de celle-ci est choisi(e) à partir du groupe de séquences présent sur les figures 11, 12 et 17.

24. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 18 à 23 dans lequel le polynucléotide est de l'ADN.

25. Procédé. selon l'une quelconque des revendications 18 à 24 dans lequel le polynucléotide est une sonde ou une amorce pour la synthèse d'ADN.

26. Procédé selon la revendication 25 dans lequel la sonde est marquée.

27. Procédé de détection d'acides nucléiques du VHC dans un échantillon qui comprend les étapes consistant à :

a. fournir un polynucléotide tel que défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications 18 à 26 ;

b. faire réagir ledit polynucléotide avec ledit échantillon dans des conditions qui permettent la formation sélective de duplexes polynucléotidiques entre ledit polynucléotide et tout acide nucléique du VHC ou tout ADNc du VHC dans ledit échantillon ; et

c. détecter tout duplex polynucléotidique contenant ledit polynucléotide.

28. Procédé d'amplification d'un polynucléotide du VHC dans un échantillon qui comprend les étapes consistant à :

a amplifier le polynucléotide du VHC en utilisant une ADN polymérase et au moins un polynucléotide défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications 18 à 25 ; et

b. détecter le polynucléotide amplifié.

29. Procédé selon la revendication 27 ou 28 dans lequel ledit échantillon est du sang, du sérum ou du plasma humain.

30. Procédé de préparation d'un vecteur recombinant comprenant une séquence polynucléotidique qui code un po-

lypeptide tel que défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 9 dans lequel ladite séquence qui code ledit polypeptide est liée de manière fonctionnelle à une séquence contrôle capable d'exprimer le polypeptide, **caractérisé en ce que** ledit procédé comprend l'étape consistant à obtenir des fragments codant le polypeptide souhaité à partir de clones d'ADNc par digestion de restriction ou synthèse chimique de ladite séquence polynucléotidique et à ligaturer ladite séquence polynucléotidique dans un vecteur.

31. Procédé selon la revendication 30 dans lequel ledit polynucléotide est de l'ADN.

32. Procédé de préparation d'une cellule hôte transformée par un vecteur recombinant comme préparé selon la revendication 30 ou 31 comprenant les étapes consistant à :

- a. fournir une cellule hôte capable de transformation ;
- b. fournir le vecteur recombinant ; et
- c. incubé (a) avec (b) dans des conditions qui permettent la transformation de la cellule hôte par le vecteur.

33. Procédé de fabrication d'un polypeptide du VHC qui comprend l'incubation d'une cellule hôte préparée selon la revendication 32 dans des conditions qui permettent l'expression de ladite séquence qui code un polypeptide, et la récupération du polypeptide.

34. Procédé de production d'une sonde polynucléotidique comprenant la synthèse chimique d'un polynucléotide tel que défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications 18 à 26.

35. Procédé de préparation d'un approvisionnement d'échantillons biologiques humains avant usage ledit procédé comprenant les étapes consistant à :

- (a) fournir un approvisionnement d'échantillons biologiques humains ; et
- (b) retirer dudit approvisionnement d'échantillons biologiques humains les échantillons contenant :
 - (i) des polynucléotides capables de détection dans un procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 27 ou 28 ;
 - ou (ii) des anticorps capables de produire des complexes polypeptide-anticorps détectables dans un procédé d'essai immunologique selon l'une quelconque des revendications 11 à 17.

36. Procédé selon la revendication 35 dans lequel lesdits échantillons biologiques humains sont du sang, du plasma ou du sérum.

37. Polypeptide sous forme essentiellement isolée comprenant une séquence contiguë issue d'une polyprotéine du virus de l'hépatite C (VHC) d'au moins 10 acides aminés, dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë est comprise entre les acides aminés 1 et 449 d'une polyprotéine du VHC, dans lequel le VHC se **caractérise par** :

- un génome simple brin de polarité positive ;
- ledit génome comprenant un cadre ouvert de lecture (ORF) codant une polyprotéine ; et
- l'intégralité de ladite polyprotéine codée ayant au moins 40 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

38. Polypeptide selon la revendication 37 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 70 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

39. Polypeptide selon la revendication 37 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 80 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

40. Polypeptide selon la revendication 37 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 90 % d'homologie avec l'entière

polyprotéine choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral issu du génome à partir duquel étaient préparés les ADNc déposés dans une bibliothèque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 avec l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

41. Polypeptide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 37 à 40 dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë est choisie à partir des acides aminés 1 à 84 ou à partir des acides aminés 9 à 177 d'une polyprotéine du VHC.

42. Polypeptide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 37 à 41 dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë est comprise dans les séquences choisies dans le groupe constitué par les figures 4, 11, 12 et 17.

43. Polypeptide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 37 à 42 dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë comprend au moins 15 acides aminés.

44. Polypeptide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 37 à 43 dans lequel ladite séquence contiguë est de formule AAX-AAy dans laquelle x et y désignent les numéros des acides aminés illustrés en figure 17 :

AA1-AA25, AA1-AA50; AA1-AA84; AA9-AA177; AA1-AA10; AA5-AA20; AA35-AA45; AA50-AA100; AA40-AA90; AA45-AA65; AA65-AA75; AA80-AA90; AA99-AA120; AA95-AA110; AA105-AA120; AA100-AA150; AA150-AA200; AA155-AA170; AA190-AA210; AA200-AA250; AA220-AA240; AA245-AA265; AA250-AA300; AA290-AA330; AA290-AA305; AA300-AA350; AA310-AA330; AA350-AA400; AA380-AA395; AA405-AA495; AA400-AA450; AA405-AA415; AA415-AA425; AA425-AA435; AA440-AA460; AA437-AA582.

45. Polypeptide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 37 à 44 dans lequel ledit polypeptide réagit immunologiquement avec des anticorps anti-VHC.

46. Polypeptide tel que défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications 37 à 45 fixé à un substrat solide.

47. Kit d'essai immunologique qui comprend un polypeptide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 37 à 46 dans un conteneur approprié.

48. Polynucléotide sous forme essentiellement isolée qui comprend une séquence génomique du VHC ou le complément de celle-ci qui est sélectivement hybridable à un polynucléotide présent entre les nucléotides -319 et 1348 d'un génome du VHC ou du complément de celui-ci, dans lequel le VHC se caractérise par :

un génome ARN simple brin de polarité positive ;
ledit génome comprenant un cadre ouvert de lecture (ORF) codant une polyprotéine ; et
l'intégralité de ladite polyprotéine codée ayant au moins 40 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

49. Polynucléotide selon la revendication 48 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 70 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

50. Polynucléotide selon la revendication 48 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 80 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

51. Polynucléotide selon la revendication 48 dans lequel ladite polyprotéine a au moins 90 % d'homologie avec la polyprotéine entière choisie à partir de (i) la polyprotéine illustrée en figure 17, ou (ii) la polyprotéine d'un isolat viral à partir du génome duquel ont été préparés les ADNc déposés dans une banque d'ADNc lambda gt-11 auprès de l'ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) sous le numéro d'accès 40394.

52. Polynucléotide selon la revendication 48 ou 51 dans lequel ladite séquence génomique du VHC ou le complément de celle-ci est présent(e) entre les nucléotides -319 et 1348 ou entre les nucléotides -319 et -1 d'un génome du

VHC.

53. Polynucléotide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 48 à 52) dans lequel ladite séquence génomique du VHC ou le complément de celle-ci est choisi(e) à partir du groupe de séquences présent sur les figures 11, 12 et 17.

54. Polynucléotide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 48 à 53 qui est de l'ADN.

55. Polynucléotide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 48 à 54 qui est une sonde ou une amorce pour la synthèse. d'ADN.

56. Polynucléotide selon la revendication 55 dans lequel la sonde est marquée.

57. Kit d'analyse d'échantillons biologiques détectant la présence de polynucléotides du VHC qui comprend un polynucléotide selon l'une quelconque des revendications 48 à 56 dans un conteneur approprié.

58. Vecteur recombinant comprenant une séquence polynucléotidique qui code un polypeptide tel que défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications 37 à 45 dans lequel ladite séquence qui code ledit polypeptide est liée de manière fonctionnelle à une séquence contrôle capable d'exprimer le polypeptide.

59. Vecteur recombinant selon la revendication 58 dans lequel ledit polynucléotide est de l'ADN.

60. Cellule hôte transformée par le vecteur selon la revendication 58 ou 59.

61. Composition pharmaceutique comprenant :

- a. un polynucléotide tel que défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications 48 à 54 ; ou
- b. un polypeptide tel que défini selon l'une quelconque des revendications 37 à 45 ; et
- c. un véhicule pharmaceutiquement acceptable.

FIG. 1 Translation of DNA 12f

IlePheLysIleArgMetTyrValGlyGlyValGluHisArgLeuGluAlaAlaCysAsn
1 CCATATTTTAAATCAGGATGTACGTGGGAGGGGTGGAACACAGGCTGGAAGCTGCCTGCA
GGTATAAATTTTAGTCCTACATGCACCTCCCCAGCTTGTGTCCGACCTTCGACGGACGT

TrpThrArgGlyGluArgCysAspLeuGluAspArgAspArgSerGluLeuSerProLeu
61 ACTGGACGCGGGGCGAACGTTGCGATCTGGAAGACAGGGACAGGTCCGAGCTCAGCCCGT
TGACCTGCGCCCCGCTTGCAACGCTAGACCTTCTGTCCCTGTCCAGGCTCGAGTCGGGCA

LeuLeuThrThrThrGlnTrpGlnValLeuProCysSerPheThrThrLeuProAlaLeu
121 TACTGCTGACCACTACACAGTGGCAGGTCTCCCGTGTTCCTTCACAACCCTACCAGCCT
ATGACGACTGGTGATGTGTACCGTCCAGGAGGGCACAAGGAAGTGTGGGATGGTCGGA

SerThrGlyLeuIleHisLeuHisGlnAsnIleValAspValGlnTyrLeuTyrGlyVal
181 TGTCCACCGGCCTCATCCACCTCCACCAGAACATTGTGGACGTGCAGTACTTGTACGGGG
ACAGGTGGCCGGAGTAGGTGGAGGTGGTCTTGTAAACCTGCACGTCATGAACATGCCCC

GlySerSerIleAlaSerTrpAlaIleLysTrpGluTyrValValLeuLeuPheLeuLeu
241 TGGGGTCAAGCATCGCGTCCTGGGCCATTAAAGTGGGAGTACGTCGTTCTCCTGTTCTTC
ACCCAGTTCTGTAGCGCAGGACCGGTAATTACCCCTCATGCAGCAAGAGGACAAGGAAG

LeuAlaAspAlaArgValCysSerCysLeuTrpMetMetLeuLeuIleSerGlnAlaGlu
301 TGCTTGACAGCGCGCGCTCTGCTCCTGCTTGTGGATGATGCTACTCATATCCCAAGCGG
ACGAACGTCTGCGCGCGCAGACGAGGACGAACACCTACTACGATGAGTATAGGGTTCGCC

AlaAlaLeuGluAsnLeuValIleLeuAsnAlaAlaSerLeuAlaGlyThrHisGlyLeu
361 AGGCGGCTTTGGAGAACCTCGTAATACTTAATGCAGCATCCCTGGCCGGGACGCACGGTC
TCCGCCGAAACCTCTTGGAGCATTATGAATTACGTCTAGGGACCGGCCCTGCGTGCCAG

Val
421 TTGTATC
AACATAG

Translation of DNA k9-1

1 GlyCysProGluArgLeuAlaSerCysArgProLeuThrAspPheAspGlnGlyTrpGly
 CAGGCTGTCCTGAGAGGCTAGCCAGCTGCCGACCCCTTACCGATTTTGACCAGGGCTGGG
 GTCCGACAGGACTCTCCGATCGGTGACGGCTGGGGAATGGCTAAACTGGTCCCGACCC

61 ProIleSerTyrAlaAsnGlySerGlyProAspGlnArgProTyrCysTrpHisTyrPro
 GCCCTATCAGTTATGCCAACGGAAGCGGCCCGACCGAGCGCCCTACTGCTGGCACTACC
 CGGGATAGTCAATACGGTTGCCTTCGCCGGGGCTGGTCCGGGGATGACGACCGTGATGG

121 ProLysProCysGlyIleValProAlaLysSerValCysGlyProValTyrCysPheThr
 CCCCCAACCTTGGCGTATTGTGCCCGGAAGAGTGTGTGGTCCGGTATATTGCTTCA
 GGGGTTTTGGAACGCCATAACACGGGGCTTCTCACACACACCAGGCCATATAACGAAGT

181 ProSerProValValValGlyThrThrAspArgSerGlyAlaProThrTyrSerTrpGly
 CTCCCAGCCCCGTGGTGGTGGGAACGACCGACAGGTCCGGCGCGCCACCTACAGCTGGG
 GAGGGTCCGGGACCCACCCCTTGCTGGCTGTCCAGCCCGCGGGTGGATGTCGACCC

241 GluAsnAspThrAspValPheValLeuAsnAsnThrArgProProLeuGlyAsnTrpPhe
 GTGAAATGATACGGACGTCTTCGTCTTAACAAATACCAGGCCACCGCTGGGCAATTGGT
 CACTTTTACTATGCCTGCAGAAGCAGGAATTGTTATGGTCCGGTGGCGACCCGTTAACCA

301 GlyCysThrTrpMetAsnSerThrGlyPheThrLysValCysGlyAlaProProCysVal
 TCGGTTGTACCTGGATGAACCTCAACTGGATTACCAAAGTGTCCGGAGCGCCTCCTTGTG
 AGCCAACATGGACCTACTTGAGTTGACCTAAGTGGTTTCACACGCCCTCGCGGAGGAACAC

361 IleGlyGlyAlaGlyAsnAsnThrLeuHisCysProThrAspCysPheArgLysHisPro
 TCATCGGAGGGGCGGGCAACAACCCCTGCCTGCCCCACTGATTGCTTCCGCAAGCATC
 AGTAGCCCTCCCGCCCGTTGTTGTGGGACGTGACGGGGTGACTAACGAAGGCGTTCTGAG

421 AspAlaThrTyrSerArgCysGlySerGlyProTrpIleThrProArgCysLeuValAsp
 CGGACGCCACATACTCTCGGTGCGGCTCCGGTCCCTGGATCACACCCAGGTGCCTGGTTCG
 GCCTGCGGTGTATGAGAGCCACGCCGAGGCCAGGGACCTAGTGTGGGTCCACGGACCAGC

 481 TyrProTyrArgLeuTrpHisTyrProCysThrIleAsnTyrThrIlePheLysIleArg
 ACTACCCGTATAGGCTTTGGCATTATCCTTGTACCATCAACTACACTATATTAAATCA
 TGATGGGCATATCCGAAACCGTAATAGGAACATGGTAGTTGATGTGATATAAATTTTAGT

 541 MetTyrValGlyGlyValGluHisArgLeuGluAlaAlaCysAsnTrpThrArgGlyGlu
 GGATGTACGTGGGAGGGGTCGAGCACAGGCTGGAAGCTGCCTGCAACTGGACGCGGGCG
 CCTACATGCACCCCTCCCGAGCTCGTGTCGACCTTCGACGGACGTTGACCTGCGCCCCGC

 601 ArgCysAspLeuGluAspArgAspArgSerGluLeuSerProLeuLeuLeuThrThrThr
 AACGTTGCGATCTGGAAGATAGGGACAGGTCCGAGCTCAGCCCGTTACTGCTGACCACTA
 TTGCAACGCTAGACCTTCTATCCCTGTCCAGGCTCGAGTCGGGCAATGACGACTGGTGTAT

 661 GlnTrpGlnValLeuProCysSerPheThrThrLeuProAlaLeuSerThrGlyLeuIle
 CACAGTGGCAGGTCCTCCCGTGTCTCCTCACAACCCTGCCAGCCTGTCCACCGGCCTCA
 GTGTCACCGTCCAGGAGGGCACAAGGAAGTGTGGGACGGTCCGAACAGGTGGCCGGAGT

 721 -----Overlap with Combined ORF of DNAs 12f through 15e-----
 HisLeuHisGlnAsnIleValAspValGlnTyrLeuTyrGlyValGlySerSerIleAla
 TCCACCTCCACCAGAACATTGTGGACGTGCAGTACTTGTACGGGGTGGGGTCAAGCATCG
 AGGTGGAGGTGGTCTGTAAACACCTGCACGTCATGAACATGCCCCACCCAGTTCGTAGC

 781 SerTrpAlaIleLysTrpGluTyrValValLeuLeuPheLeuLeuAlaAspAlaArg
 CGTCCTGGGCCATTAAAGTGGGAGTACGTCGTCCTCCTGTTCTTCTGCTTGCAGACCTGC
 GCAGGACCCGGTAAATTCACCTCATGCAGCAGGAGGACAAGGAAGACGAACGCTGCGCG

FIGURE 2-1

ValCysSerCysLeuTrpMetMetLeuLeuIleSerGlnAlaGluAlaAlaLeuGluAsn
 841 GCGTCTGCTCCTGCTTGTGGATGATGCTACTCATATCCCAAGCGGAAGCGGCTTTGGAGA
 CGCAGACGAGGACGAACACCTACTACGATGAGTATAGGGTTCGCCTTCGCCGAAACCTCT

 LeuValIleLeuAsnAlaAlaSerLeuAlaGlyThrHisGlyLeuValSerPheLeuVal
 901 ACCTCGTAATACTTAATGCAGCATCCCTGGCCGGGACGCACGGTCTTGATCCTTCTCTG
 TGGAGCATTATGAATTACGTCGTAGGGACCGGCCCTGCGTGCCAGAACATAGGAAGGAGC

 PhePheCysPheAlaTrpTyrLeuLysGlyLysTrpValProGlyAlaValTyrThrPhe
 961 TGTTCTTCTGCTTTGCATGGTATCTGAAGGGTAAGTGGGTGCCCCGAGCGGTCTACACCT
 ACAAGAAGACGAAACGTACCATAGACTTCCATTACCCACGGGCCCTGCCAGATGTGGA

 TyrGlyMetTrpProLeuLeuLeuLeuLeuAlaLeuProGlnArgAlaTyrAlaLeu
 1021 TCTACGGGATGTGGCCTCTCCTCCTGCTCCTGTTGGCGTTGCCCCAGCGGGCGTACGGCG
 AGATGCCCTACACCGGAGAGGAGGACGAGGACAAACCGCAACGGGGTCGCCCGCATGGCGC

 AspThrGluValAlaAlaSerCysGlyGlyValValLeuValGlyLeuMetAlaLeuThr
 1081 TGGACACGGAGGTGGCCGCGTCTGTGGCGGTGTTGTTCTCGTCGGGTGATGGCGCTAA
 ACCTGTGCCTCCACCGGCGCAGCACACCGCCACAACAAGAGCAGCCCACTACCGCGATT

 LeuSerProTyrTyrLysArgTyrIleSerTrpCysLeuTrpTrpLeuGlnTyrPheLeu
 1141 CTCTGTCACCATATTACAAGCGCTATATCAGCTGGTGCTTGTTGGTGGCTTCAGTATTTTC
 GAGACAGTGGTATAATGTTGCGGATATAGTCGACCACGAACACCACCGAAGTCATAAAAG

 ThrArgValGluAlaGlnLeuHisValTrpIleProProLeuAsnValArgGlyGlyArg
 1201 TGACCAGAGTGGAAGCGCAACTGCACGTGTGGATTCCCCCCCCCAACGTCCGAGGGGGGC
 ACTGGTCTCACCTTCGCGTTGACGTGCACACCTAAGGGGGGGAGTTGCAGGCTCCCCCGC

 AspAlaValIleLeuLeuMetCysAlaValHisProThrLeuValPheAspIleThrLys
 1261 GCGACGCTGTCATCTTACTCATGTGTGCTGTACACCCGACTCTGGTATTTGACATCACCA
 CGCTGCGACAGTAGAATGAGTACACACGACATGTGGGCTGAGACCATAAAGTGTAGTGGT

 LeuLeuLeuAlaValPheGlyProLeuTrpIleLeuGlnAla
 1321 AATTGCTGCTGGCCGTCTTCGGACCCCTTTGGATTCTTCAAGCCAG
 TTAACGACGACCGGCAGAACCTGGGGAAACCTAAGAAGTTTCGGTC

FIGURE 2-2

Translation of DNA 15e

```

-----
      GlyAlaGlyLysArgValTyrTyrLeuThrArgAspProThrThrProLeuAlaArgAla
1  CGGCGCTGGAAAGAGGGTCTACTACCTCACCCGTGACCCTACAACCCCCCTCGCGAGAGC
   GCCGCGACCTTTCTCCAGATGATGGAGTGGGCACTGGGATGTTGGGGGGAGCGCTCTCG
-----
      -----Overlap with 26g-----
      AlaTrpGluThrAlaArgHisThrProValAsnSerTrpLeuGlyAsnIleIleMetPhe
61 TGCGTGGGAGACAGCAAGACACACTCCAGTCAATTCCTGGCTAGGCAACATAATCATGTT
   ACGCACCCCTCTGTCGTTCTGTGTGAGGTCAGTTAAGGACCGATCCGTTGTATTAGTACAA
-----
      AlaProThrLeuTrpAlaArgMetIleLeuMetThrHisPhePheSerValLeuIleAla
121 TGGCCCCACACTGTGGGCGAGGATGATACTGATGACCCATTTCTTTAGCGTCCTTATAGC
   ACGGGGGTGTGACACCCGCTCCTACTATGACTACTGGGTAAAGAAATCGCAGGAATATCG
-----
      ArgAspGlnLeuGluGlnAlaLeuAspCysGluIleTyrGlyAlaCysTyrSerIleGlu
191 CAGGGACCAGCTTGAACAGGCCCTCGATTGCGAGATCTACGGGGCCTGCTACTCCATAGA
   GTCCCTGGTCGAACTTGTCCGGGAGETAACGCTCTAGATGCCCCGGACGATGAGGTATCT
-----
      ProLeuAspLeuProProIleIleGlnArgLeu
241 ACCACTTGATCTACCTCCAATCATTCAAAGACTC
   TGGTGAAC TAGATGGAGGTTAGTAAGTTTCTGAG

```

FIGURE 3

Translation of DNA 131

ProSerProValValValGlyThrThrAspArgSerGlyAlaProThrTyrSerTrpGly
 1 CTCCCAGCCCCGTGGTGGTGGGAACGACCGACAGGTCGGGCGCGCCTACCTACAGCTGGG
 GAGGGTCGGGGCACCACCACCTTGCTGGCTGTCCAGCCCGCGCGGATGGATGTCGACCC

GluAsnAspThrAspValPheValLeuAsnAsnThrArgProProLeuGlyAsnTrpPhe
 61 GTGAAAATGATACGGACGTCTTCGTCCTTAACAATACCAGGCCACCGCTGGGCAATTGGT
 CACTTTTACTATGCCTGCAGAAGCAGGAATTGTTATGGTCCGGTGGCGACCCGTTAACCA

GlyCysThrTrpMetAsnSerThrGlyPheThrLysValCysGlyAlaProProCysVal
 121 TCGGTTGTACCTGGATGAACCTCAACTGGATTACCAAAGTGTGCGGAGCGCCTCCTTGTG
 AGCCAACATGGACCTACTTGAGTTGACCTAAGTGGTTTCACACGCCTCGCGGAGGAACAC

IleGlyGlyAlaGlyAsnAsnThrLeuHisCysProThrAspCysPheArgLysHisPro
 181 TCATCGGAGGGGCGGGCAACAACACCCTGCACTGCCCCACTGATTGCTTCCGCAAGCATC
 AGTAGCCTCCCCGCCGTTGTTGTGGGACGTGACGGGGTGAATAACGAAGGCGTTCGTAG

AspAlaThrTyrSerArgCysGlySerGlyProTrpLeuThrProArgCysLeuValAsp
 241 CGGACGCCACATACTCTCGGTGCGGCTCCGGTCCCTGGCTCACACCCAGGTGCCTGGTTCG
 GCCTGCGGTGTATGAGAGCCACGCCGAGGCCAGGGACCGAGTGTGGGTCCACGGACCAGC

 TyrProTyrArgLeuTrpHisTyrProCysThrIleAsnTyrThrIlePheLysIleArg
 301 ACTACCCGTATAGGCTTTGGCATTATCCTTGTACCATCAACTACACCATATTTAAAATCA
 TGATGGGCATATCCGAAACCGTAATAGGAACATGGTAGTTGATGTGGTATAAATTTTGT

 MetTyrValGlyGlyValGluHisArgLeuGluAlaAlaCysAsnTrpThrArgGlyGlu
 361 GGATGTACGTGGGAGGGGTCGAGCACAGGCTGGAAGCTGCCTGCAACTGGACGCGGGGCG
 CCTACATGCACCCTCCCCAGCTCGTGTCCGACCTTCGACGGACGTTGACCTGCGCCCCGC

-----Overlap with 12f-----
 ArgCysAspLeuGluAspArgAspArgSerGluLeuSerProLeuLeuLeuThrThrThr
 421 AACGTTGCGATCTGGAAGACAGGGACAGGTCCGAGCTCAGCCCGTTACTGCTGACCACTA
 TTGCAACGCTAGACCTTCTGTCCCTGTCCAGGCTCGAGTCGGGCAATGACGACTGGTGAT

 GlnTrpGlnValLeuProCysSerPheThrThrLeuProAlaLeuSerThrGlyLeu
 481 CACAGTGGCAGGTCCTCCCGTGTTCCCTTCAACAACCTGCCAGCCTTGTCACCGGCCTCA
 GTGTACCGTCCAGGAGGGCACAAGGAAGTGTGGGACGGTCGGAACAGGTGGCCGGAGT

FIGURE 4

Translation of DNA 26j

LeuPheTyrHisHisLysPheAsnSerSerGlyCysProGluArgLeuAlaSerCysArg
 1 GCTTTTCTATCACCACAAGTTCAACTCTTCAGGCTGTCCTGAGAGGCTAGCCAGCTGCCG
 CGAAAAGATAGTGGTGTTCAGTTGAGAAGTCCGACAGGACTCTCCGATCGGTCGACGGC

 ProLeuThrAspPheAspGlnGlyTrpGlyProIleSerTyrAlaAsnGlySerGlyPro
 61 ACCCCTTACCGATTTTGACCAGGGCTGGGGCCCTATCAGTTATGCCAACGGAAGCGGCCC
 TGGGGAATGGCTAAACTGGTCCCGACCCCGGGATAGTCAATACGGTTGCCTTCGCCGGG

 AspGlnArgProTyrCysTrpHisTyrProProLysProCysGlyIleValProAlaLys
 121 CGACCAGCGCCCCTACTGCTGGCACTACCCCCAAAACCTTGCGGTATTGTGCCCGCGAA
 GCTGGTCGCGGGGATGACGACCGTGATGGGGGGTTTGGAACGCCATAACACGGGCGCTT

 ---Overlap with 131---
 SerValCysGlyProValTyrCysPheThrProSerProValValVal
 181 GAGTGTGTGGTCCGGTATATTGCTTCACTCCCAGCCCCGTGGTGGTGGG
 CTCACACACACCAGGCCATATAACGAAGTGAGGGTCGGGGCACCACCACC

FIGURE 5

Translation of DNA CA59a

```

1  LeuValMetAlaGlnLeuLeuArgIleProGlnAlaIleLeuAspMetIleAlaGlyAla
   TTGGTAATGGCTCAGCTGCTCCGGATCCCACAAGCCATCTTGGACATGATCGCTGGTGCT
   AACCATTACCGAGTCGACGAGGCCTAGGGTGTTCGGTAGAACCTGTACTAGCGACCACGA

61  HisTrpGlyValLeuAlaGlyIleAlaTyrPheSerMetValGlyAsnTrpAlaLysVal
   CACTGGGGAGTCCTGGCGGGCATAGCGTATTTCTCCATGGTGGGGAAGTGGGCGAAGGTC
   GTGACCCCTCAGGACCGCCCGTATCGCATAAAGAGGTACCACCCCTTGACCCGCTTCCAG

121 LeuValValLeuLeuLeuPheAlaGlyValAspAlaGluThrHisValThrGlyGlySer
   CTGGTAGTGCTGCTGCTATTTGCCGGCGTCGACGCGGAAACCCACGTCACCGGGGGAAGT
   GACCATCACGACGACGATAAACGGCCGCAGCTGCGCCTTTGGGTGCAGTGGCCCCCTTCA

181 AlaGlyHisThrValSerGlyPheValSerLeuLeuAlaProGlyAlaLysGlnAsnVal
   GCCGGCCACACTGTGTCTGGATTTGTTAGCCTCCTCGCACCAGGCGCCAAGCAGAACGTC
   CGGCCCGTGTGACACAGACCTAAACAATCGGAGGAGCGTGGTCCGCGGTTCGTCTTGACG

241 GlnLeuIleAsnThrAsnGlySerTrpHisLeuAsnSerThrAlaLeuAsnCysAsnAsp
   CAGCTGATCAACACCAACGGCAGTTGGCACCTCAATAGCACGGCCCTGAACTGCAATGAT
   GTCGACTAGTTGTGGTTGCCGTCAACCGTGGAGTTATCGTGCCGGGACTTGACGTTACTA

301 SerLeuAsnThrGlyTrpLeuAlaGlyLeuPheTyrHisHisLysPheAsnSerSerGly
   AGCCTCAACACCGGCTGGTTGGCAGGGCTTTTCTATCACCACAAGTTCAACTCTTCAGGC
   TCGGAGTTGTGGCCGACCAACCGTCCCGAAAAGATAGTGGTGTTCAGTTGAGAAGTCCG
   -----Overlap with 26j-----

-----Overlap with K9-1-----
361 CysProGluArgLeuAlaSerCysArgPro
   TGTCTGAGAGGCTAGCCAGCTGCCGACCCC
   ACAGGACTGTCCGATCGGTCGACGGCTGGGG
   -----

```

FIGURE 6

Translation of DNA CA84a

```

      GlnGlyCysAsnCysSerIleTyrProGlyHisIleThrGlyHisArgMetAlaTrpAsp
1  CGCAAGGTTGCAATTGCTCTATCTATCCCCGGCCATATAACGGGTCACCGCATGGCATGGG
   GCGTTCCAACGTTAACGAGATAGATAGGGCCGGTATATTGCCCAGTGGCGTACCGTACCC
      -----
      MetMetMetAsnTrpSerProThrThrAlaLeuValMetAlaGlnLeuLeuArgIlePro
61 ATATGATGATGAACTGGTCCCCTACGACGGCGTTGGTAATGGCTCAGCTGCTCCGGATCC
   TATACTACTACTTGACCAGGGGATGCTGCCGCAACCATTACCGAGTCGACGAGGCCTAGG
      -----
      GlnAlaIleLeuAspMetIleAlaGlyAlaHisTrpGlyValLeuAlaGlyIleAlaTyr
121 CACAAGCCATCTTGGACATGATCGCTGGTGCTCACTGGGGAGTCCTGGCGGGCATAGCGT
   GTGTTCCGTTAGAACCTGTACTAGCGACCACGAGTGACCCCTCAGGACCGCCCGTATCGCA
      -----Overlap with CA59a-----
      PheSerMetValGlyAsnTrpAlaLysValLeuValValLeuLeuLeuPheAlaGlyVal
181 ATTTCTCCATGGTGGGGAAGTGGGCGAAGGTCCTGGTAGTGCTGCTGCTATTGCGCGCG
   TAAAGAGGTACCACCCCTTGACCCGCTTCCAGGACCATCACGACGACGATAAACGGCCGC
      -----
      AspAlaGluThrHisValThrGly
241 TCGACGCGGAAACCCACGTCACCGGGG
   AGCTGCGCCTTTGGGTGCAGTGGCCCC

```

FIGURE 7

Translation of DNA CA156e

```

      CysTrpValAlaMetThrProThrValAlaThrArgAspGlyLysLeuProAlaThrGln
1  GTGTTGGGTGGCGATGACCCCTACGGTGGCCACCAGGGATGGCAAAC TCCCCGCGACGCA
   CACAACCCACCGCTACTGGGGATGCCACCGGTGGTCCCTACCGTTTGAGGGGCGCTGCGT

      LeuArgArgHisIleAspLeuLeuValGlySerAlaThrLeuCysSerAlaLeuTyrVal
61 GCTTCGACGTCACATCGATCTGCTTGTGCGGAGCGCCACCCTCTGTTGCGCCCTCTACGT
   CGAAGCTGCAGTGTAGCTAGACGAACAGCCCTCGCGGTGGGAGACAAGCCGGGAGATGCA

      GlyAspLeuCysGlySerValPheLeuValGlyGlnLeuPheThrPheSerProArgArg
121 GGGGGACCTATGCGGGTCTGTCTTTCTTGTGCGGCCAACTGTTACCTTCTCTCCAGGCG
   CCCCCTGGATACGCCCAGACAGAAAGAACAGCCGGTTGACAAGTGGAAGAGAGGGTCCGC

      -----
      HisTrpThrThrGlnGlyCysAsnCysSerIleTyrProGlyHisIleThrGlyHisArg
181 CCCTGGACGACGCAAGGTTGCAATTGCTCTATCTATCCCGGCCATATAACGGGTCACCG
   GGTGACCTGCTGCGTTCCAACGTTAACGAGATAGATAGGGCCGGTATATTGCCCAGTGGC

      -----Overlap with CA84a-----
      MetAlaTrpAspMetMetMetAsnTrpSerProThrThrAlaLeuValValAlaGlnLeu
241 CATGGCATGGGATATGATGATGAAC TGGTCCCCTACGACGGCGTTGGTAGTGGCTCAGCT
   GTACCGTACCCTATACTACTTGTGACCAGGGGATGCTGCCGCAACCATCACCGAGTCGA

      -----
      LeuArgIleProGlnAla
301 GCTCCGGATCCCACAAGCC
   CGAGGCCTAGGGTGTTCGG

```

FIGURE 8

Translation of DNA CA167b

SerThrGlyLeuTyrHisValThrAsnAspCysProAsnSerSerIleValTyrGluAla
 1 CTCCACGGGGCTTTACCACGTCACCAATGATTGCCCTAACTCGAGTATTGTGTACGAGGC
 GAGGTGCCCCGAAATGGTGCAGTGGTTACTAACGGGATTGAGCTCATAACACATGCTCCG

 AlaAspAlaIleLeuHisThrProGlyCysValProCysValArgGluGlyAsnAlaSer
 61 GGCCGATGCCATCCTGCACACTCCGGGGTGGCTCCCTTGGCTTCGTGAGGGCAACGCCTC
 CCGGCTACGGTAGGACGTGTGAGGCCCCACGCAGGGAACGCAAGCACTCCCGTTGCGGAG

 ArgCysTrpValAlaMetThrProThrValAlaThrArgAspGlyLysLeuProAlaThr
 121 GAGGTGTTGGGTGGCGATGACCCCTACGGTGGCCACCAGGGATGGCAAAC TCCCCGCGAC
 CTCCACAACCCACCGCTACTGGGGATGCCACCGGTGGTCCCTACCGTTTGAGGGGCGCTG

 -----Overlap with CA156e-----
 GlnLeuArgArgHisIleAspLeuLeuValGlySerAlaThrLeuCysSerAlaLeuTyr
 181 GCAGCTTCGACGTCACATCGATCTGCTTGTGCGGAGCGCTACCCTCTGTTGCGCCCTCTA
 CGTCGAAGCTGCAGTGTAGCTAGACGAACAGCCCTCGCGATGGGAGACAAGCCGGGAGAT

 ValGlyAspLeuCysGlySerValPheLeu
 241 CGTGGGGGACTTGTGCGGGTCTGTCTTTCTTG
 GCACCCCTGAACACGCCCAGACAGAAAGAAC

FIGURE 9

Translation of DNA CA16a

ArgArgArgSerArgAsnLeuGlyLysValIleAspThrLeuThrCysGlyPheAlaAsp
 1 CCOCGGTAGGTGCGCAATTGGGTAAGGTCATCGATACCCCTTACGTGCGGCTTCGCGG
 GGGCCGCATCCAGCGCTTAAACCATTCAGTAGCTATGGGAATGCACCCCGAAGCGGC

LeuMetGlyTyrIleProLeuValGlyAlaProLeuGlyGlyAlaAlaArgAlaLeuAla
 61 ACCTCATGCGGTACATAACCCCTCGTCCGCGCCCTCTTGGAGGCGCTGCCAGGCGCCCTGG
 TGGAGTACCCCATGTATGGCGAGCAGCGCGGGGAGAACCTTCGCGACGGTCOCGGGACC

HisGlyValArgValLeuGluAspGlyValAsnTyrAlaThrGlyAsnLeuProGlyCys
 121 CGCATGGCGTCCGGGTTCTGGAAGACGGCGTCAACTATGCAACAGGGAACCTTCCTGGCTT
 CGGTACCGCAGGCCAAGACCTTCTGCGCACTTGATACGTTGTCCCTTGGAGGACCAA

SerPheSerIlePheLeuLeuAlaLeuLeuSerCysLeuThrValProAlaSerAlaTyr
 181 GCTCTTTCTCTATCTTCTTCTGGCCCTGCTCTCTTCTGCTTGAAGTGTGCCCGCTTCGGCT
 CGAGAAAGACATAGAAGGAAGACCGGGACGACAGAAAGAACTGACACCGGCCAAGCGGA

 GluValArgAsnSerThrGlyLeuTyrHisValThrAsnAspCysProAsnSerSerIle
 241 ACCAAGTGGCCAACTCCACGGGGCTTACCACGTCACCAATGATTGCCCTAACTCCAGTA
 TGGTTCACCGCTTGAGGTGCCCCGAAATGGTGCAGTGGTTACTAACGGGATTGAGCTCAT

-----Overlap with CA167b-----
 ValTyrGluAlaAlaAspAlaIleLeuHisThrProGlyCysValProCysValArgGlu
 301 TTGTCTACCAAGCGGCCGATGCCATCTGACACACTCCGGGGTGCCTCCCTTCCGTTGGTG
 AACACATGCTTCCCGGCTACGGTAGGAGCTGTGAGGCCCCCAGCGAGGGAAACGCAAGCAC

 GlyAsnAlaSerArgCysTrpValAlaMetThrProThrValAla
 361 AAGGCAACCGCTCGAGGTGTTGGGTGGCGATGACCCCTACGGTGGCC
 TCCCGTTGCGGAGCTCCACAACCCACCGCTACTGGCGATGCCACGGC

FIGURE 10

Translation of DNA CA290a

1 LysLysAsnLysArgAsnThrAsnArgArgProGlnAspValLysPheProGlyGlyGly
 AAAAAAAAAACAAAGTAACACCAACCGTCGCCACAGGACSTCAAGTTCCCGGGTGGCG
 TTTTTTTTTTGTTCATTGTGGTTGGCAGCGGGTGCTGCAGTTCAAGGGCCACCGC

61 GlnIleValGlyGlyValTyrLeuLeuProArgArgGlyProArgLeuGlyValArgAla
 GTCAGATCGTTGGTGGAGTTTACTTGTTGCCGCCAGGGCCCTAGATTGGGTGTGGCG
 CAGTCTAGCAACCACTCAAATGAACAACGGCGCTCCCGGGATCTAACCACACGCTC

121 ThrArgLysThrSerGluArgSerGlnProArgGlyArgArgGlnProIleProLysAla
 CCACGAGAAACACTTCCGAGCGCTCCCAACCTCCAGCTACACCCAGCCTATCCCAAGC
 GCTGCTCTTTCTGAAGGCTCGCCAGCGTTGGAGCTCCATCTGGGTTCGGATAGGGGTTC

181 ArgArgProGluGlyArgThrTrpAlaGlnProGlyTyrProTrpProLeuTyrGlyAsn
 CTGCTCGGCCGAGGGCAGGACCTGGGCTCAGCCCGGTACCTTGGCCCTCTATGGCA
 GAGCAGCCGGCTCCCGTCTCGACCCGAGTCCGGCCCATCCCAACCGCCAGATACCT

241 GluGlyCysGlyTrpAlaGlyTrpLeuLeuSerProArgGlySerArgProSerTrpGly
 ATGAGGGCTGCGGGTGGGGCGGATGGGTCTCTGCTCCCGTGGCTCTCGGCCTAGCTGGG
 TACTCCCGACCCCAACCCCGCTACCGAGCACAGCGCCACCCAGAGCCGGATCGACCC

 301 ProThrAspProArgArgArgSerArgAsnLeuGlyLysValIleAspThrLeuThrCys
 GCCCACAGACCCCGCGTAGGTTCGCCAATTGGGTAAAGTTCATCGATACCTTACGT
 CGGGGTGTCTGGGGGCGCATCCAGCGGTTAAACCCATTCCAGTAGCTATGGGAATGCA

 361 GlyPheAlaAspLeuMetGlyTyrIleProLeuValGlyAlaProLeuGlyGlyAlaAla
 CCGCCTTCGCCACCTCATGGGTACATACCGCTCGTCCGCGCCCTCTTCGACCGCGT
 CGCCGAGCGGCTGGAGTACCCCATGTATGGCGAGCAGCCGCGGGAGAACCTCCGCGAC

-----Overlap with CA216a-----
 421 ArgAlaLeuAlaHisGlyValArgValLeuGluAspGlyValAsnTyrAlaThrGlyAsn
 CCAGGGCCCTGGCGCATGGCGTCCGGCTTCGGAAGACGGCGTGAACATGCCAACAGGCA
 GGTCCCGGACCGGTACCGCAGGCCCAAGACCTTCTGCCGCACTTGATACGTTGTCCCT

 481 LeuProGlyCysSerPheSerThrPhe
 ACCTTCCTGGTTGCTCTTTCTCTACCTTC
 TGGAGGACCAACGAGAAAGAGATGGAG

FIGURE 11

Translation of DNA ag30a

FIG. 12-1

#MetSerValValGlnProProGlyProProLeu

#MetAlaLeuValOP

1 CGCAGAAAGCGTCTAGCCATGGCGTTAGTATGAGTGTCTGTCAGCCTCCAGGACCCCCC
GCGTCTTTTCGAGATCGGTACCGCAATCATACTCACAGCACGTCCGAGGTCCTGGGGGGG

ProGlyGluProAM

61 TCCCGGGAGAGCCATAGTGGTCTGCGGAACCGGTGAGTACACCGGAATTGCCAGGACGAC
AGGGCCCTCTCGGTATCACCAGACGCCCTTGGCCACTCATGTGGCCTTAACGGTCTCTGCTG

#MetProGlyAspLeuGlyValProProGlnAsp

121 CGGGTCCTTTCTTGGATCAACCCGCTCAATGCCCTGGAGATTTGGGCGTGCCCCGCAAGA
GCCCAGGAAAGAACCTAGTTGGGCGAGTTACGGACCTCTAAACCCGCACGGGGGCGTTCT

OP AM GlyAlaCys
*

CysAM

181 CTGCTAGCCGAGTAGTGTGGGTGCGGAAAGGCCTTGTGGTACTGCCTGATAGGGTGCCT
GACGATCGGCTCATCACAACCCAGCGCTTCCGGAACACCATGACGGACTATCCCACGAA

GluCysProGlyArgSerArgArgProCysThrMetSerThrAsnProLysProGlnLys

241 GCGAGTGCCCCGGGAGGTCTCGTAGACCGTGCACCATGAGCACGAATCCTAAACCTCAAA
CGCTCACGGGGCCCTCCAGAGCATCTGGCAGCTGGTACTCGTGCCTTAGGATTTGGAGTTT

LysAsnLysArgAsnThrAsnArgArgProGlnAspValLysPheProGlyGlyGlyGln

301 AAAAAACAAACGTAACACCAACCGTCGCCCCAGGACGTCAAGTTCCCGGGTGGCGGT
TTTTTTTGTTCATTTGTGGTTGGCAGCGGGTGTCTGCAGTTCAAGGGCCACCGCCAG

IleValGlyGlyValTyrLeuLeuProArgArgGlyProArgLeuGlyValArgAlaThr

361 AGATCGTTGGTGGAGTTTACTTGTGTCGCGCAGGGGCCCTAGATTGGGTGTGCGCGGA
TCTAGCAACCACTCAAATGAACAACGGCGCTCCCCGGGATCTAACCCACACGCGCGCT

ArgLysThrSerGluArgSerGlnProArgGlyArgArgGlnProIleProLysAlaArg

421 CGAGAAAGACTTCCGAGCGGTGCGAACCTCGAGGTAGACGTCAGCCTATCCCCAAGGCTC
GCTCTTTCTGAAGGCTCGCCAGCGTTGGAGCTCCATCTGCAGTCGGATAGGGGTTCCGAG

ArgProGluGlyArgThrTrpAlaGlnProGlyTyrProTrpProLeuTyrGlyAsnGlu

-----overlap with CA290a-----

481 GTCGGCCCGAGGGCAGGACCTGGGCTCAGCCCGGGTACCTTGGCCCTCTATGGCAATG
CAGCCGGGCTCCCGTCTGGACCCGAGTCGGGCCCATGGGAACCGGGGAGATACCGTTAC

GlyCysGlyTrpAlaGlyTrpLeuLeuSerProArgGlySerArgProSerTrpGlyPro

541 AGGGCTGCGGGTGGGCGGGATGGCTCCTGTCTCCCGTGGCTCTCGGCCCTAGCTGGGGCC
TCCCGACGCCACCCGCCCTACCGAGGACAGAGGGGCACCGAGAGCCGGATCGACCCCGG

ThrAspProArgArgArgSerArgAsnLeuGlyLysValIleAspThrLeuThrCysGly

GlyCysGlyTrpAlaGlyTrpLeuLeuSerProArgGlySerArgProSerTrpGlyPro

 541 AGGCTGCGGGTGGCGGGATGGCTCTGTCTCCCGTGGCTCTCGGCCTACCTCGGGCC
 TCCGAGCGCCACCCGCCCTACCGAGCACAGAGGGGCACCGAGAGCGGATCGACCCCGG

 ThrAspProArgArgArgSerArgAsnLeuGlyIysValIleAspThrLeuThrCysGly

 601 CCACAGACCCCGCGTAGGTGCGCAATTTCGGTAAGGTCATCGATACCCCTACGTCCG
 GGTGTCTGGGGCCGCATCCAGCGCGTTAAACCCATTCCAGTAGCTATGGGAATGCACGC

 Phe

 661 GCTTC
 CGAAG

- * = Start of long HCV ORF
- | = Putative first amino acid of large HCV polyprotein
- # = Putative small encoded peptides(that may play a translational regulatory role)

FIGURE 12-2

Translation of DNA CA205a

```

1  ValLeuGlyArgGlyArgProCysGlyThrAlaOP AM GlyAlaCysGluCysProGly
   GTCTTGGGTGCGGAAAGGCCTTGTGGTACTGCCGTGATAGGGTGCTTGCGAGTCCCCCGGG
   CAGAACCCAGGCTTTCCGGAACACCATGACGGACTATCCACGAAACGCTCACGGGGCCC

*

61  ArgSerArgArgProCysThrMetSerThrAsnProLysProGlnArgLysThrLysArg
   AGGTCTCGTAGACCGTGCAACATGAGCACGAATCCTAAACCTCAAGAAAAACCAACGT
   TCCAGACCATCTGCCACGTGGTACTCGTCTTAGCATTTGGAGTTTCTTTTGGTTTCCA

-----

121  AsnThrAsnArgArgProGlnAspValLysPheProGlyGlyGlyGlnIleValGlyGly
   AACACCAACCGTCGCCACAGGACGTCAAGTTCCGGGTGGCGGTGAGATCGTTGGTGGG
   TTGTGGTTGCCAGCGGCTGTCTCTCAGTTCAAGCGCCCAACCGCCAGTCTAGCAACCACT

-----

181  ValTyrLeuLeuProArgArgGlyProArgLeuGlyValArgAlaThrArgLysThrSer
   GTTIACTTGTGCGCGCGCAGGGGCCCTAGATTGGGTGTGCGCGCGACGAGAAAGACTTCC
   CAAATGAACAACGGCGCGTCCCCGGGATCTAACCACACGCGCGCTGCTCTTTCTGAAGG

-----Overlap with CA290a-----
241  GluArgSerGlnProArgGlyArgArgGlnProIleProLysAlaArgArgProGluGly
   CACCGGTGCGAACCTCGAGCTAGACGTCAGCCTATCCCCAAGGCTCGTCCGCCCGAGGCG
   CTCGCCAGCGTTGGAGCTCCATCTGCAGTCCGATAGGGGTTCCGAGCAGCCCGGCTCCCG

-----

301  ArgThrTrpAlaGlnProGlyTyrProTrpProLeuTyrGlyAsnGluGlyCys
   AGGACCTGCGCTCAGCCCGGCTACCTTGGCCCTCTATCCCAATCAGCGCTCCG
   TCTGGACCGAGTCCGGCCCATGGGAACCGGGAGATACCGTACTCCCGACGC

```

* = putative initiator methionine codon

FIGURE 13

```

#ProProOP
#SerThrMetAsnHisSerProValArgAsnTyrCysLeuHisAlaGluSerValAM
#LeuHisHisGluSerLeuProCysGluGluLeuLeuSerSerArgArgLysArgLeuAla
1 CTCCACCATGAATCACTCCCTGTGAGGAACTACTGTCTTCACGCAGAAAGCGTCTAGCC
CAGGTGCTACTTACTGAGGGCACTCTCTGATGACAGANGTGGTCTTTCCAGATCGG

-----
#MetSerValValGlnProProGlyProProLeuProGlyGluProAM

MetAlaLeuValCP
61 ATGGCGTTAGTATGAGTGTCTGTGCAGGCTCCAGGACCCCTCCCGGGAGAGCCATAGT
TACCGCAATCATACTCACAGCACGTCTGGAGGTCTCTGCGGGGAGGGCCCTCTCGGTATCA

-----

121 GGTCTGCGGAACCGGTGAGTACACCGGAATTGCCAGGACGACCGGGTCTTTCTTGGATC
CCAGACGCCTTGGCCACTCATGTGGCCTTAACGGTCTCTGCTGGCCCAGGAAAGAACCTAG

-----Overlap with ag30a-----
#MetProGlyAspLeuGlyValProProGlnAspCysAM

181 AACCCGCTCAATGCCTGGAGATTGCGGCGTGCCCCGCAAGACTGCTAGCCGAGTAGTGT
TTGCGCGAGTTACGGACCTCTAAACCCGCACGGGGCCCTTCTGACGATCGGCTCATCACA

-----
OP AM GlyAlaCysGluCysProGlyArgSer
p
241 TGGGTGCGGAAAGGCCTTGTGGTACTGCCTGATAGGGTGCTTGGAGTGCCCCGGGAGGT
ACCCAGCGCTTTCCGGAACACCATGACGGACTATCCACGAACGCTCACGGGGCCCTCCA

-----
ArgArg
301 CTCGTAGA
GAGCATCT

```

- * = Start of long HCV ORF
- # = Putative small encoded peptides (that may play a translational regulatory role).

FIGURE 14

Translation of DNA 16jh

-----Overlap with 15e -----

1 GlyAlaCysTyrSerIleGluProLeuAspLeuProProIleIleGlnArgLeuHisGly
 GGGGCCCTGCTACTCCATAGAACCACCTGGATCTACCTCCAATCATTCAAAGACTCCATGGC
 CCCCCGACGATGAGGTATCTTGGTGACCTAGATGGAGGTTAGTAAGTTTCTGAGGTACCG

61 LeuSerAlaPheSerLeuHisSerTyrSerProGlyGluIleAsnArgValAlaAlaCys
 CTCAGCGCATTTTCACTCCACAGTTACTCTCCAGGTGAAATTAATAGGGTGGCCGCATGC
 GAGTCGCGTAAAAGTGAGGTGTCAATGAGAGGTCCACTTTAATTATCCCACCGGCGTACG

Gly*
G

121 LeuArgLysLeuGlyValProProLeuArgAlaTrpArgHisArgAlaArgSerValArg
 CTCAGAAAACCTTGGGGTACCGCCCTTGGCAGCTTGGAGACACCGGGCCCGGAGCGTCCGC
 GAGTCTTTTGAACCCCATGGCGGGAACGCTCGAACCTCTGTGGCCCGGGCCTCGCAGGCG

181 AlaArgLeuLeuAlaArgGlyGlyArgAlaAlaIleCysGlyLysTyrLeuPheAsnTrp
 GCTAGGCTTCTGGCCAGAGGAGGCAGGGCTGCCATATGTGGCAAGTACCTCTTCAACTGG
 CGATCCGAAGACCGGTCTCCTCCGTCCCGACGGTATACACCGTTCATGGAGAAGTTGACC

241 AlaValArgThrLysLeuLys
 GCAGTAAGAACAAAGCTCAAAC
 CGTCATTCTTGTTCGAGTTTG

* = nucleotide heterogeneity

FIGURE 15

COMBINED ORF OF DNAs pil4a THROUGH 15a

(pil4a/CA167b/CA156e/CA84a/CA59a/K9-1/12f/141/11b/7f/7e/
8h/33c/40b/37b/35/36/81/32/33b/25c/14c/8f/33f/33g/39c/
35f/19g/26g & 15e)

ArgSerArgAsnLeuGlyLysValIleAspThrLeuThrCysGlyPheAlaAspLeuMet
1 AGGTCGCGCAATTTGGGTAAGGTCATCGATACCTTACGTGCGGCTTCGCCGACCTCATG
TCCAGCGCGTTAAACCCATTCCAGTAGCTATGGGAATGCACGCCGAAGCGGCTGGAGTAC

GlyTyrIleProLeuValGlyAlaProLeuGlyGlyAlaAlaArgAlaLeuAlaHisGly
61 GGTACATACCGCTCGTCGGCGCCCTCTTGAGGGCGCTGCCAGGGCCCTGGCGCATGGC
CCCATGTATGGCGAGCAGCCGCGGGGAGAACCCTCCGCGACGGTCCCGGGACCGCGTACCG

ValArgValLeuGluAspGlyValAsnTyrAlaThrGlyAsnLeuProGlyCysSerPhe
121 GTCCGGGTCTTGGGAAGACGGCGTGAACCTATGCAACAGGGAACCTTCTGGTTGCTCTTTC
CAGGCCCAAGACCTTCTGCCGCACTTGATACGTGTGCCCTTGGGAAGACCAACGAGAAAG

SerIlePheLeuLeuAlaLeuLeuSerCysLeuThrValProAlaSerAlaTyrGlnVal
181 TCTATCTTCTTCTGGCCCTGCTCTCTTGCTTGACTGTGCCCGCTTCGGCCTACCAAGTG
AGATAGAAGGAAGACCGGGACGAGAGAACGAACCTGACACGGGCGAAGCCGGATGGTTTAC

ArgAsnSerThrGlyLeuTyrHisValThrAsnAspCysProAsnSerSerIleValTyr
241 CGCAACTCCACGGGGCTTTACCACGTCACCAATGATTGCCCTAACTCGAGTATTGTGTAC
CGGTGAGGTGCCCCGAAATGGTGCAGTGGTACTAACGGGATTGAGCTCATAACACATG

GluAlaAlaAspAlaIleLeuHisThrProGlyCysValProCysValArgGluGlyAsn
301 GAGGCGGCGCATGCCATCCTGCACACTCCGGGGTGCGTCCCTTGCGTTGCTGAGGGCAAC
CTCCGCGGCTACGGTAGGACGTGTGAGGCCCCACGCAGGGAACGCAAGCACTCCCGTTG

AlaSerArgCysTrpValAlaMetThrProThrValAlaThrArgAspGlyLysLeuPro
361 GCCTCGAGGTGTTGGGTGGCGATGACCCCTACGGTGGCCACCAGGGATGGCAAACTCCCC
CGGAGCTCCACAACCCACCGCTACTGGGGATGCCACCGGTGGTCCCTACCGTTTGAGGGG

AlaThrGlnLeuArgArgHisIleAspLeuLeuValGlySerAlaThrLeuCysSerAla
421 GCGACGCGCTTCGACGTCACATCGATCTGCTTGTCGGGAGCGCCACCCTCTGTTCCGGCC
CGCTGCGTCCGAAGCTGCAGTGTAGCTAGACGAACAGCCCTCGCGGTGGGAGACAAGCCGG

LeuTyrValGlyAspLeuCysGlySerValPheLeuValGlyGlnLeuPheThrPheSer
481 CTCTACGTGGGGACCTATGCGGGTCTGTCTTCTTGTCGGCCAACTGTTACCTTCTCT
GAGATGCACCCCTGGATACGCCCAGACAGAAAGAACAGCCGGTTGACAAGTGAAGAGA

ProArgArgHisTrpThrThrGlnGlyCysAspCysSerIleTyrProGlyHisIleThr
541 CCCAGGCGCCACTGGACGACGCAAGGTTGCAATTGCTCTATCTATCCCGGCCATATAACG
GGGTCCGCGGTGACCTGCTGCGTTCCAACGTTAACGAGATAGATAGGGCCCGTATATTGC

GlyHisArgMetAlaTrpAspMetMetMetAsnTrpSerProThrThrAlaLeuValMet
601 GGTCACCGCATGGCATGGGATATGATGATGAACTGGTCCCTACGACGGCGTGGGTAATG
CCAGTGGCGTACCGTACCCTATACTACTACTTGACCAGGGGATGCTGCCGCAACCATTAC

AlaGlnLeuLeuArgIleProGlnAlaIleLeuAspMetIleAlaGlyAlaHisTrpGly
661 GCTCAGCTGCTCCGGATCCCACAAGCCATCTTGACATGATCGCTGGTGCTCACTGGGGA
CGAGTCGACGAGGCCTAGGGTGTTCGGTAGAACCTGTACTAGCGACCACGAGTGACCCCT

ValLeuAlaGlyIleAlaTyrPheSerMetValGlyAsnTrpAlaLysValLeuValVal
721 GTCTTGCGGGGCATAGCGTATTTCTCCATGGTGGGGAACCTGGGCGAAGGTCTGGTAGTG
CAGGACCGCCGTATCGCATAAAGAGGTACCACCCCTTGACCCGCTTCCAGGACCATCAC

LeuLeuLeuPheAlaGlyValAspAlaGluThrHisValThrGlyGlySerAlaGlyHis
781 CTGTGCTATTTGCGGGCGTTCGACGCGGAAACCCACGTCACCGGGGGAAGTGGCGGCCAC
GACGACGATAAACGGCCGCGAGCTGCGCCTTTGGGTGCAGTGGCCCCCTTACGGCCGGTG

FIGURE 16-1

841 ThrValSerGlyPheValSerLeuLeuAlaProGlyAlaLysGlnAsnValGlnLeuIle
 ACTGTGTCTGGATTGTTAGCCTCCTCGCACCAGGCGCCAAGCAGAACGTCCAGCTGATC
 TGACACAGACCTAAACAATCGGAGGAGCGTGGTCCGCGGTTCTGCTTGAGGTCGACTAG
 901 AsnThrAsnGlySerTrpHisLeuAsnSerThrAlaLeuAsnCysAsnAspSerLeuAsn
 AACACCAACGGCAGTTGGCACCTCAATAGCACGGCCCTGAACTGCAATGATAGCCTCAAC
 TTGTGGTTGCCGTCAACCGTGGAGTTATCGTGCCGGGACTTGACGTTACTATCGGAGTTG
 961 ThrGlyTrpLeuAlaGlyLeuPheTyrHisHisLysPheAsnSerSerGlyCysProGlu
 ACCGGCTGGTTGGCAGGGCTTTTCTATCACCACAAGTTCAACTCTTCAGGCTGTCTGTAG
 TGGCCGACCAACCGTCCCGAAAAGATAGTGGTGTCAAGTTGAGAAGTCCGACAGGACTC
 1021 ArgLeuAlaSerCysArgProLeuThrAspPheAspGlnGlyTrpGlyProIleSerTyr
 AGGCTAGCCAGCTGCCGACCCCTTACCGATTTTGACCAGGGCTGGGGCCCTATCAGTTAT
 TCCGATCGGTGACGGCTGGGGAATGGCTAAACTGGTCCCGACCCCGGGATAGTCAATA
 1081 AlaAsnGlySerGlyProAspGlnArgProTyrCysTrpHisTyrProProLysProCys
 GCCAACGGAAGCGGCCCCGACCAGCGCCCCCTACTGCTGGCACTACCCCCAAAACCTTGC
 CGGTTGCCCTTCGCCGGGGCTGGTCCGCGGGATGACGACCGTGATGGGGGGTTTGGGAACG
 1141 GlyIleValProAlaLysSerValCysGlyProValTyrCysPheThrProSerProVal
 GGTATTGTGCCCCGAAGAGTGTGTGTGGTCCGGTATATTGCTTCACTCCCGAGCCCCGTG
 CCATAACACGGGCGCTTCTCACACACACCAGGCCATATAACGAAGTGAGGGTCGGGGCAC
 1201 ValValGlyThrThrAspArgSerGlyAlaProThrTyrSerTrpGlyGluAsnAspThr
 GTGGTGGGAACGACCGACAGGTCCGGGCGCGCCACCTACAGCTGGGGTGAAAATGATACG
 CACCACCCTTGCTGGCTGTCCAGCCCGCGCGGGTGGATGTGACCCCACTTTTACTATGC
 1261 AspValPheValLeuAsnAsnThrArgProProLeuGlyAsnTrpPheGlyCysThrTrp
 GACGTCTTCGTCTTAAACAATACCAGGCCACCGCTGGGCAATTGGTTCGGTTGTACCTGG
 CTGCAGAAGCAGGAATTGTATGGTCCGGTGGCGACCCGTTAACCAAGCCAACATGGACC
 1321 MetAsnSerThrGlyPheThrLysValCysGlyAlaProProCysValIleGlyGlyAla
 ATGAACCTCACTGGATTACCAAAGTGTGCGGAGCGCCTCCTTGTCATCGGAGGGGCG
 TACTTGAGTTGACCTAAGTGGTTTCACACGCCTCGCGGAGGAACACAGTAGCCTCCCCGC
 1381 GlyAsnAsnThrLeuHisCysProThrAspCysPheArgLysHisProAspAlaThrTyr
 GGCAACAACACCCTGCACTGCCCCACTGATTGCTTCCGCAAGCATCCGGACGCCACATAC
 CCGTTGTTGTGGGACGTGACGGGGTGACTAACGAAGGCGTTCGTAGGCCTGCGGTGTATG
 1441 SerArgCysGlySerGlyProTrpIleThrProArgCysLeuValAspTyrProTyrArg
 TCTCGGTGCGGCTCCGGTCCCTGGATCACACCCAGGTGCCTGGTCCGACTACCCGTATAGG
 AGAGCCACGCCGAGGCCAGGGACCTAGTGTGGGTCCACGGACCACTGATGGGCATATCC
 1501 LeuTrpHisTyrProCysThrIleAsnTyrThrIlePheLysIleArgMetTyrValGly
 CTTTGGCATTATCCTTGTACCATCAACTACACCATATTTAAATCAGGATGTACGTGGGA
 GAAACCGTAATAGGAACATGGTAGTTGATGTGGTATAAATTTTAGTCTACATGCACCCT
 1561 GlyValGluHisArgLeuGluAlaAlaCysAsnTrpThrArgGlyGluArgCysAspLeu
 GGGGTGGAACACAGGCTGGAAGCTGCCTGCAACTGGACGCGGGGCGAACGTTGCGATCTG
 CCCCAGCTTGTGTCCGACCTTCGACGGACGTTGACCTGCGCCCCGCTTGAACGCTAGAC
 1621 GluAspArgAspArgSerGluLeuSerProLeuLeuLeuThrThrThrGlnTrpGlnVal
 GAAGACAGGGACAGGTCCGAGCTCAGCCCGTTACTGCTGACCACTACACAGTGGCAGGTC
 CTTCTGTCCCTGTCCAGGCTCGAGTCGGGCAATGACGACTGGTGATGTGTACCCGTCCAG
 1681 LeuProCysSerPheThrThrLeuProAlaLeuSerThrGlyLeuIleHisLeuHisGln
 CTCCCGTGTTCCTTCAACAACCTACCAGCCTTGTCCACCGGCCCTCATCCACCTCCACCAG
 GAGGGCACAAGGAAGTGTGGGATGGTCCGAACAGGTGGCCGGAGTAGGTGGAGGTGGTC
 1741 AsnIleValAspValGlnTyrLeuTyrGlyValGlySerSerIleAlaSerTrpAlaIle
 AACATTGTGGACGTGCAGTACTTGTACGGGTGGGGTCAAGCATCGCTCTGGGCCATT
 TTGTAACACCTGCACGTGATGAACATGCCCCACCCAGTTTCGTAGCGCAGGACCGGTAA
 1801 LysTrpGluTyrValValLeuLeuPheLeuLeuAlaAspAlaArgValCysSerCys
 AAGTGGGAGTACGTCGTTCTCTGTTCCTTCTGCTTGCAGACGCGCGCTGCTCTCTGC

FIGURE 16-2

TTCACCTCATGCAGCAAGAGGACAAGGAAGACGAACGTCTGCGCGCGCAGACGAGGACG
 1861 LeuTrpMetMetLeuLeuIleSerGlnAlaGluAlaAlaLeuGluAsnLeuValIleLeu
 TTGTGGATGATGCTACTCATATCCCAAGCGGAGGCGGCTTTGGAGAACCCTCGTAATACTT
 AACACCTACTACGATGAGTATAGGGTTCCGCTCCGCCGAAACCTCTTGGAGCATTATGAA
 1921 AsnAlaAlaSerLeuAlaGlyThrHisGlyLeuValSerPheLeuValPhePheCysPhe
 AATGCAGCATCCCTGGCCGGGACGCACGGTCTTGTATCCTTCCTCGTGTCTTCTGCTTT
 TTACGTCGTAGGGACCGGCCCTGCGTGCCAGAACATAGGAAGGAGCACAAGAAGACGAAA
 1981 AlaTrpTyrLeuLysGlyLysTrpValProGlyAlaValTyrThrPheTyrGlyMetTrp
 GCATGGTATTTGAAGGGTAAGTGGGTGCCCCGAGCGGTCTACACCTTCTACGGGATGTGG
 CGTACCATAAACTTCCCATTCACCCACGGGCCTCGCCAGATGTGGAAGATGCCCTACACC
 2041 ProLeuLeuLeuLeuLeuAlaLeuProGlnArgAlaTyrAlaLeuAspThrGluVal
 CCTCTCCTCCTGCTCTGTTGGCGTTGCCCCAGCGGCGGTACGCGCTGGACACGGAGGTG
 GGAGAGGAGGACGAGGACAACCGCAACGGGGTCCGCCCATGCGCGACCTGTGCCTCCAC
 2101 AlaAlaSerCysGlyGlyValValLeuValGlyLeuMetAlaLeuThrLeuSerProTyr
 GCCGCGTCGTGTGGCGGTGTTGTTCTCGTCGGGTTGATGGCGCTGACTCTGTCACCATAT
 CGGCGCAGCACACCGCCACAACAAGAGCAGCCCACTACCGCGACTGAGACAGTGGTATA
 2161 TyrLysArgTyrIleSerTrpCysLeuTrpTrpLeuGlnTyrPheLeuThrArgValGlu
 TACAAGCGGTATATCAGCTGGTGCTTGTGGTGGCTTCACTATTTCTGACCAGAGTGGAA
 ATGTTCCGATATAGTCGACCACGAACACCACCGAAGTCATAAAAGACTGGTCTCACCTT
 2221 AlaGlnLeuHisValTrpIleProProLeuAsnValArgGlyGlyArgAspAlaValIle
 GCGCAACTGCACGTGTGGATTCCCCCCTCAACGTCCGAGGGGGGCGCGACGCCGTATC
 CGGTTGACGTGCACACCTAAGGGGGGAGTTGCAGGCTCCCCCGCGCTGCGGCAGTAG
 2281 LeuLeuMetCysAlaValHisProThrLeuValPheAspIleThrLysLeuLeuAla
 TTACTCATGTGTGCTGTACACCCGACTCTGGTATTTGACATCACCAAATTGCTGCTGGCC
 AATGAGTACACACGACATGTGGGCTGAGACCATAAACTGTAGTGTTTAAACGACGACCGG
 2341 ValPheGlyProLeuTrpIleLeuGlnAlaSerLeuLeuLysValProTyrPheValArg
 GTCTTCGGACCCCTTTGGATTCTTCAAGCCAGTTTGTCTAAAGTACCCTACTTTGTGCGC
 CAGAAGCCTGGGAAAACCTAAGAAGTTCGGTCAAACGAATTTATGGGATGAACACGCG
 2401 ValGlnGlyLeuLeuArgPheCysAlaLeuAlaArgLysMetIleGlyGlyHisTyrVal
 GTCCAAGGCCTTCTCCGGTTCTGCGCGTTAGCGCGGAAGATGATCGGAGGCCATTACGTG
 CAGGTTCCGGAAGAGGCCAAGACGCGCAATCGCGCCTTCTACTAGCCTCCGGTAATGCAC
 2461 GlnMetValIleIleLysLeuGlyAlaLeuThrGlyThrTyrValTyrAsnHisLeuThr
 CAAATGGTCACTAATTAAGTTAGGGGCGCTTACTGGCACCTATGTTTATAACCATCTCACT
 GTTTACCAGTAGTAATTCAATCCCCGGAATGACCGTGGATACAAATATTGGTAGAGTGA
 2521 ProLeuArgAspTrpAlaHisAsnGlyLeuArgAspLeuAlaValAlaValGluProVal
 CCTCTTCGGGACTGGGCGCACAACGGCTTGCGAGATCTGGCCGTGGCTGTAGAGCCAGTC
 GGAGAAGCCCTGACCCGCGTGTGCGGAACGCTCTAGACCGGCACCGACATCTCGGTACG
 2581 ValPheSerGlnMetGluThrLysLeuIleThrTrpGlyAlaAspThrAlaAlaCysGly
 GTCTTCTCCCAAATGGAGACCAAGCTCATCACGTGGGGGGCAGATACCGCCGCGTGGGT
 CAGAAGAGGGTTTACCTCTGGTTCGAGTAGTGACCCCCCGTCTATGGCGGGCAGCCCA
 2641 AspIleIleAsnGlyLeuProValSerAlaArgArgGlyArgGluIleLeuLeuGlyPro
 GACATCATCAACGGCTTGCTGTTTCCGCCCCGAGGGGCGGGAGATACTGCTCGGGCCA
 CTGTAGTAGTTGCCGAACGGACAAAGGCGGGGCTCCCCGGCCCTCTATGACGAGCCCGGT
 2701 AlaAspGlyMetValSerLysGlyTrpArgLeuLeuAlaProIleThrAlaTyrAlaGln
 GCCGATGGAATGGTCTCAAGGGGTGGAGGTTGCTGGCGCCCATCACGGCGTACGCCAG
 CGGCTACCTTACCAGAGGTTCCCCACCTCCAACGACCGGGTAGTGCCGATGCGGGTC
 2761 GlnThrArgGlyLeuLeuGlyCysIleIleThrSerLeuThrGlyArgAspLysAsnGln
 CAGACAAGGGGCTCTAGGGTGCATAATCACCAGCCTAACTGGCCGGGACAAAACCAA
 GTCTGTTCCCGGAGGATCCACGTATTAGTGGTGGATTGACCGGCCCTGTTTTGGTT

FIGURE 16-3

2821 ValGluGlyGluValGlnIleValSerThrAlaAlaGlnThrPheLeuAlaThrCysIle
 GTGGAGGGTGAGGTCCAGATTGTGTCAACTGCTGCCCAAACCTTCCTGGCAACGTGCATC
 CACCTCCCACCTCCAGGTCTAACACAGTTGACGACGGGTTTGGAAGGACCGTTGCACGTAG

2881 AsnGlyValCysTrpThrValTyrHisGlyAlaGlyThrArgThrIleAlaSerProLys
 AATGGGGTGTGCTGGACTGTCTACCACGGGGCCGGAACGAGGACCATCGCGTCACCCAAG
 TTACCCACACGACCTGACAGATGGTGCCCCGGCCTTGCTCCTGGTAGCGCAGTGGGTTC

2941 GlyProValIleGlnMetTyrThrAsnValAspGlnAspLeuValGlyTrpProAlaPro
 GGTCTGTTCATCCAGATGTATACCAATGTAGACCAAGACCTTGTTGGGCTGGCCCGCTCCG
 CCAGGACAGTAGGTCTACATATGGTTACATCTGGTTCTGGAACACCCGACGGGGCGAGGC

3001 GlnGlySerArgSerLeuThrProCysThrCysGlySerSerAspLeuTyrLeuValThr
 CAAGGTAGCCGCTCATTGACACCCTGCACCTGCGGCTCCTCGGACCTTTACCTGGTCACG
 GTTCATCGGGCGAGTAAGTGTGGGACGTGAACGCCGAGGAGCCTGGAAATGGACAGTGC

3061 ArgHisAlaAspValIleProValArgArgArgGlyAspSerArgGlySerLeuLeuSer
 AGGCACGCCGATGTTCATTCCTGCGCGCGGGGGTGATAGCAGGGGCAGCCTGCTGTGCG
 TCCGTGCGGCTACAGTAAGGGCACGCGGCCGCCCACTATCGTCCCGTCGGACGACAGC

3121 ProArgProIleSerTyrLeuLysGlySerSerGlyGlyProLeuLeuCysProAlaGly
 CCGCGGCCCATTTCTACTTGAAGGCTCCTCGGGGGGTCCGCTGTTGTGCCCCGCGGGG
 GGGCGCGGTAAAGGATGAACCTTCCGAGGAGCCCCCAGGCGACAACACGGGGCGCCCC

3181 HisAlaValGlyIlePheArgAlaAlaValCysThrArgGlyValAlaLysAlaValAsp
 CACGCCGTGGGCATATTTAGGGCCGCGGTGTGCACCCGTGGAGTGGCTAAGGCGGTGGAC
 GTGCGGCACCCGTATAAATCCCGCGCCACACGTGGGCACCTCACCGATTCCGCCACCTG

3241 PheIleProValGluAsnLeuGluThrThrMetArgSerProValPheThrAspAsnSer
 TTTATCCCTGTGGAGAACCTAGAGACAACCATGAGGTCCCCGGTGTTCACGGATAACTCC
 AAATAGGGACACCTCTTGATCTCTGTTGGTACTCCAGGGGCCACAAGTGCCTATTGAGG

3301 SerProProValValProGlnSerPheGlnValAlaHisLeuHisAlaProThrGlySer
 TCTCCACAGTAGTGCCCCAGAGCTTCCAGGTGGCTCACCTCCATGCTCCACAGGCAGC
 AGAGGTGGTCATCACGGGGTCTCGAAGGTCCACCGAGTGGAGGTACGAGGGTGTCCGTGC

3361 GlyLysSerThrLysValProAlaAlaTyrAlaAlaGlnGlyTyrLysValLeuValLeu
 GGCAAAAGCACCAAGGTCCCGGCTGCATATGCAGCTCAGGGCTATAAGGTGCTAGTAGTC
 CCGTTTTCGTGGTTCCAGGGCCGACGTATACGTGAGTCCCGATATTCCACGATCATGAG

3421 AsnProSerValAlaAlaThrLeuGlyPheGlyAlaTyrMetSerLysAlaHisGlyIle
 AACCCCTCTGTTGCTGCAACACTGGGCTTTGGTGCTTACATGTCCAAGGCTCATGGGATC
 TTGGGGAGACAACGACGTGTGACCCGAACACGAATGTACAGGTTCAGGTACCCTAG

3481 AspProAsnIleArgThrGlyValArgThrIleThrThrGlySerProIleThrTyrSer
 GATCCTAACATCAGGACCGGGGTGAGAACAATTACCACTGGCAGCCCCATCAGTACTCC
 CTAGGATTGTAGTCTGCCCCCACTCTTGTTAATGGTGACCGTCGGGGTAGTGCATGAGG

3541 ThrTyrGlyLysPheLeuAlaAspGlyGlyCysSerGlyGlyAlaTyrAspIleIleIle
 ACCTACGGCAAGTTCCTTGCCGACGGCGGGTGCTCGGGGGCGCTTATGACATAATAATT
 TGGATGCCGTTCAAGGAACGGCTGCCGCCACGAGCCCCCGGAATACTGTATTATTAA

3601 CysAspGluCysHisSerThrAspAlaThrSerIleLeuGlyIleGlyThrValLeuAsp
 TGTGACGAGTGCCACTCCACGGATGCCACATCCATCTTGGGCATCGGCACTGTCTTTGAC
 ACACGTCTACGGTGAGGTGCCTACGGTGTAGGTAGAACCCGTAGCCGTGACAGGAACGTG

3661 GlnAlaGluThrAlaGlyAlaArgLeuValValLeuAlaThrAlaThrProProGlySer
 CAAGCAGAGACTGCGGGGGCGAGACTGGTTGTGCTCGCCACCGCCACCCCTCCGGGCTCC
 GTTCGTCTCTGACGCCCCCGCTCTGACCAACACGAGCGGTGGCGGTGGGGAGGCCCGAGG

3721 ValThrValProHisProAsnIleGluGluValAlaLeuSerThrThrGlyGluIlePro
 GTCAGTGTGCCCATCCCAACATCGAGGAGGTTGCTCTGTCCACCACCGAGAGATCCCT
 CAGTGACACGGGTAGGGTTGTAGCTCCTCCAACGAGACAGGTGGTGGCCTCTCTAGGGA

3781 PheTyrGlyLysAlaIleProLeuGluValIleLysGlyGlyArgHisLeuIlePheCys
 TTTTACGGCAAGGCTATCCCCCTCGAAGTAATCAAGGGGGGAGACATCTCATCTTCTGT

FIGURE 16-4

AAAATGCCGTTCCGATAGGGGAGCTTCATTAGTTCCCCCCTCTGTAGAGTAGAAGACA
 HisSerLysLysLysCysAspGluLeuAlaAlaLysLeuValAlaLeuGlyIleAsnAla
 3841 CATTCAAGAAGAAGTGGACGAACCTCGCCGAAAGCTGGTTCGATTGGGCATCAATGCC
 GTAAGTTTCTTCTTCACGCTGCTTGAGCGGCGTTTCGACCAGCGTAACCCGTAGTTACGG
 ValAlaTyrTyrArgGlyLeuAspValSerValIleProThrSerGlyAspValValVal
 3901 GTGGCCTACTACCGCGGTCTTGACGTGTCCGTCATCCCGACCAGCGGCGATGTTGTCTC
 CACCGGATGATGGCGCCAGAACTGCACAGGCAGTAGGGCTGGTCCGCGCTACAACAGCAG
 ValAlaThrAspAlaLeuMetThrGlyTyrThrGlyAspPheAspSerValIleAspCys
 3961 GTGGCAACCGATGCCCTCATGACCGGCTATACCGCGGACTTCGACTCGGTGATAGACTGC
 CACCGTTGGCTACGGGAGTACTGGCGGATATGCGCGCTGAAGCTGAGCCACTATCTGACG
 AsnThrCysValThrGlnThrValAspPheSerLeuAspProThrPheThrIleGluThr
 4021 AATACGTGTGTACCCAGACAGTCGATTTACGCCTTGACCCTACCTTCACCATTGAGACA
 TTATGCACACAGTGGGTCTGTCTAGCTAAAGTCGGAAGTGGGATGGAAGTGTAACCTCTGT
 IleThrLeuProGlnAspAlaValSerArgThrGlnArgArgGlyArgThrGlyArgGly
 4081 ATCAGCTCCCCCAGGATGCTGTCTCCCGCACTCAACGTCGGGGCAGGACTGGCAGGGGG
 TAGTGCGAGGGGGTCTACGACAGAGGGCGTGAGTTGCAGCCCCGTCTGACCGTCCCCC
 LysProGlyIleTyrArgPheValAlaProGlyGluArgProSerGlyMetPheAspSer
 4141 AAGCCAGGCATCTACAGATTTGTGGCACCAGGGGAGCGCCCCCTCCGGCATGTTCCGACTCG
 TTCGGTCCGTAGATGTCTAAACACCGTGGCCCCCTCGCGGGAGGCCGTACAAGCTGAGC
 SerValLeuCysGluCysTyrAspAlaGlyCysAlaTrpTyrGluLeuThrProAlaGlu
 4201 TCCGTCCTCTGTGAGTGCTATGACGCAGGCTGTGCTTGGTATGAGCTCAGCCCCGCCGAG
 AGGCAGGAGACACTCAGGATACTGCGTCCGACACGAACCATACTCGAGTGCAGGGCGGCTC
 ThrThrValArgLeuArgAlaTyrMetAsnThrProGlyLeuProValCysGlnAspHis
 4261 ACTACAGTTAGGCTACGAGCGTACATGAACACCCCGGGGCTTCCCGTGTGCCAGGACCAT
 TGATGTCAATCCGATGCTCGCATGTACTTGTGGGGCCCCGAAGGGCACACGGTCTCTGTA
 LeuGluPheTrpGluGlyValPheThrGlyLeuThrHisIleAspAlaHisPheLeuSer
 4321 CTGAAATTTTGGGAGGGCGTCTTTACAGGCCTCACTCATATAGATGCCCACTTTCTATCC
 GAACCTAAACCCCTCCCGCAGAAATGTCCGGAGTGAGTATATCTACGGGTGAAAGATAGG
 GlnThrLysGlnSerGlyGluAsnLeuProTyrLeuValAlaTyrGlnAlaThrValCys
 4381 CAGACAAAGCAGAGTGGGGAGAACCCTTCCTTACCTGGTAGCGTACCAAGCCACCGTGTGC
 GTCTGTTTCGTCTCACCCCTCTTGAAGGAATGGACCATCGCATGGTTCTGGTGGCACACG
 AlaArgAlaGlnAlaProProProSerTrpAspGlnMetTrpLysCysLeuIleArgLeu
 4441 GCTAGGGCTCAAGCCCCCTCCCCATCGTGGGACCAGATGTGGAAGTGTGTTGATTGCGCTC
 CGATCCCGAGTTCGGGGAGGGGGTAGCACCTGGTCTACACCTTCACAACTAAGCGGAG
 LysProThrLeuHisGlyProThrProLeuLeuTyrArgLeuGlyAlaValGlnAsnGlu
 4501 AAGCCACCCCTCCATGGGCCAACACCCCTGCTATACAGACTGGGCGCTGTTTCAGAAATGAA
 TTCGGGTGGGAGGTACCCGGTTGTGGGGACGATATGTCTGACCCGCGACAAGTCTTACTT
 IleThrLeuThrHisProValThrLysTyrIleMetThrCysMetSerAlaAspLeuGlu
 4561 ATCACCCTGACGCACCCAGTCACCAAATACATCATGACATGCATGTCGGCCGACCTGGAG
 TAGTGGGACTGCGTGGGTCAGTGGTTTATGTAGTACTGTACGTACAGCCGGCTGGACCTC
 ValValThrSerThrTrpValLeuValGlyGlyValLeuAlaAlaLeuAlaAlaTyrCys
 4621 GTCGTACGAGCACCTGGGTGCTCGTTGGCGGCGTCTCTGGCTGCTTTGGCCGCGTATTGC
 CAGCAGTGTCTGTTGGACCCACGAGCAACCGCCGAGGACCGACGAAACCGGCGCATAACG
 LeuSerThrGlyCysValValIleValGlyArgValValLeuSerGlyLysProAlaIle
 4681 CTGTCAACAGGCTGCGTGGTTCATAGTGGGCAGGGTCGTCCTGTTCGGGAAGCCCGCAATC
 GACAGTTGTCCGACGCACCAAGTATCACCCGTCCAGCAGAACAGGCCCTTCGGCCGTTAG
 IleProAspArgGluValLeuTyrArgGluPheAspGluMetGluGluCysSerGlnHis
 4741 ATACCTGACAGGAAGTCCTCTACCGAGAGTTCGATGACATGGAAGAGTGCTCTCAGCAC
 TATGGACTGTCCCTCAGGAGATGGCTCTCAAGCTACTCACCTTCTCAGGAGTCTG

FIGURE 16-5

4801 LeuProTyrIleGluGlnGlyMetMetLeuAlaGluGlnPheLysGlnLysAlaLeuGly
 TTACCGTACATCGAGCAAGGGATGATGCTCGCCGAGCAGTTCAAGCAGAAGGCCCTCGGC
 AATGGCATGTAGCTCGTTCCCTACTACGAGCGGCTCGTCAAGTTCGTCTTCCGGGAGCCG

 4861 LeuLeuGlnThrAlaSerArgGlnAlaGluValIleAlaProAlaValGlnThrAsnTrp
 CTCCTGCAGACCGCTCCCGTCAGGCAGAGGTTATCGCCCTGCTGTCCAGACCAACTGG
 GAGGACGTCTGGCGCAGGGCAGTCCGTCTCCAATAGCGGGACGACAGGTCTGGTTGACC

 4921 GlnLysLeuGluThrPheTrpAlaLysHisMetTrpAsnPhelIleSerGlyIleGlnTyr
 CAAAACTCGAGACCTTCTGGGCGAAGCATATGTGGAACCTTCATCAGTGGGATACAATAC
 GTTTTTGAGCTCTGGAAGACCCGCTTCGTATACACCTGAAGTAGTCACCCTATGTTATG

 4981 LeuAlaGlyLeuSerThrLeuProGlyAsnProAlaIleAlaSerLeuMetAlaPheThr
 TTGGCGGGCTGTCAACGCTGCCTGGTAACCCCGCCATTGCTTCATTGATGGCTTTTACA
 AACCGCCCGAACAGTTGCGACGGACCATTGGGGCGGTAACGAAGTAACCTACCGAAAATGT

 5041 AlaAlaValThrSerProLeuThrThrSerGlnThrLeuLeuPheAsnIleLeuGlyGly
 GCTGCTGTCAACGCTGCCTGGTAACCCCGCCATTGCTTCATTGATGGCTTTTACA
 CGACGACAGTGGTCCGGTGATTGGTGATCGGTTTGGGAGGAGAAGTTGTATAACCCCCC

 5101 TrpValAlaAlaGlnLeuAlaAlaProGlyAlaAlaThrAlaPheValGlyAlaGlyLeu
 TGGGTGGCTGCCAGCTCGCCGCCCCCGGTGCGGCTACTGCCTTTGTGGGCGCTGGCTTA
 ACCACCGACGGTTCGAGCGGCGGGGGCCACGGCGATGACGGAAACACCCGCGACCGAAT

 5161 AlaGlyAlaAlaIleGlySerValGlyLeuGlyLysValLeuIleAspIleLeuAlaGly
 GCTGGCGCCGCCATCGGCAGTGTTGGACTGGGAAGGTCTTCATAGACATCCTTGCAGGG
 CGACCGCGGCGTAGCCGTCACAACCTGACCCCTTCAGGAGTATCTGTAGGAACGTCCC

 5221 TyrGlyAlaGlyValAlaGlyAlaLeuValAlaPheLysIleMetSerGlyGluValPro
 TATGGCGCGGGCGTGGCGGGAGCTCTTGTGGCATTCAAGATCATGAGCGGTGAGGTCCCC
 ATACCGCGCCCGACCGCCCTCGAGAACACCGTAAGTTCTAGTACTCGCCACTCCAGGGG

 5281 SerThrGluAspLeuValAsnLeuLeuProAlaIleLeuSerProGlyAlaLeuValVal
 TCCACGGAGGACCTGGTCAATCTACTGCCCGCCATCCTCTCGCCCGGAGCCCTCGTAGTC
 AGGTGCCCTCTGGACCACTTAGATGACGGGCGGTAGGAGAGCGGGCCTCGGGAGCATCAG

 5341 GlyValValCysAlaAlaIleLeuArgArgHisValGlyProGlyGluGlyAlaValGln
 GCGGTGGTCTGTGCAGCAATACTGCGCGGGCAGGTGGCGCGGGGCGAGGGGCGAGTGCAG
 CCGCACCAAGACAGTCTGTTATGACGCGGCGGTGCAACCGGGCCCGCTCCCCCGTCAAGTC

 5401 TrpMetAsnArgLeuIleAlaPheAlaSerArgGlyAsnHisValSerProThrHisTyr
 TGGATGAACCGGCTGATAGCCTTCGCCTCCCGGGGGAACCATGTTTCCCCACGCACTAC
 ACCTACTTGGCCGACTATCGGAAGCGGAGGGCCCCCTTGGTACAAAGGGGGTGGTGATG

 5461 ValProGluSerAspAlaAlaAlaArgValThrAlaIleLeuSerSerLeuThrValThr
 GTGCCGGAGAGCGATGCAGCTGCCCCGCTCACTGCCATACTCAGCAGCCTCACTGTAACC
 CACGGCCTCTCGCTACGTTCGACGGGCGCAGTGACGGTATGAGTCGTGCGAGTGACATTGG

 5521 GlnLeuLeuArgArgLeuHisGlnTrpIleSerSerGluCysThrThrProCysSerGly
 CAGCTCCTGAGGCGACTGCACCACTGGATAAGCTCGGAGTGTACCACTCCATGCTCCGGT
 GTCGAGGACTCCGCTGACGTGGTCACCTATTCGAGCCTCACATGGTGAGGTACGAGGCCA

 5581 SerTrpLeuArgAspIleTrpAspTrpIleCysGluValLeuSerAspPheLysThrTrp
 TCCTGGCTAAGGGACATCTGGGACTGGATATGCGAGGTGTGAGCGACTTTAAGACCTGG
 AGGACCGATTCCCTGTAGACCCTGACCTATACGCTCCACAACCTCGCTGAAATTCTGGACC

 5641 LeuLysAlaLysLeuMetProGlnLeuProGlyIleProPheValSerCysGlnArgGly
 GTAAAAGCTAAGCTCATGCCACAGCTGCCTGGGATCCCTTTGTGTCCTGCCAGCGCGGG
 GATTTTCGATTTCGAGTACGGTGTGCGACGGACCCTAGGGGAAACACAGGACGGTCCGCGCC

 5701 TyrLysGlyValTrpArgValAspGlyIleMetHisThrArgCysHisCysGlyAlaGlu
 TATAAGGGGGTCTGGCGAGTGGACGGCATCATGCACACTCGCTGCCACTGTGGAGCTGAG
 ATATTCCCCCAGACCGCTCACCCTGCCGTAGTACGTGTGAGCGACGGTGACACCTCGACTC

 5761 IleThrGlyHisValLysAsnGlyThrMetArgIleValGlyProArgThrCysArgAsn
 ATCACTGGACATGTCAAAAACGGGACGATGAGGATCGTCCGTCTAGGACCTGCAGGAAC

FIGURE 16-6

TAGTGACCTGTACAGTTTTTGCCTGCTACTCCTAGCAGCCAGGATCCTGGACGTCCTTG
 5821 MetTrpSerGlyThrPheProIleAsnAlaTyrThrThrGlyProCysThrProLeuPro
 ATGTGGAGTGGGACCTTCCCATTAATGCCTACACCACGGCCCCCTGTACCCCCCTTCCT
 TACACCTCACCTGGAAGGGTAATTACGGATGTGGTCCCCGGGGACATGGGGGAAGGA
 5881 AlaProAsnTyrThrPheAlaLeuTrpArgValSerAlaGluGluTyrValGluIleArg
 GCGCCGAACCTACAGTTCGCGCTATGGAGGGTGTCTGCAGAGGAATATGTGGAGATAAGG
 CGCGGCTTGATGTGCAAGCGGATACCTCCACAGACGCTCTCTTATACACCTCTATTCC
 5941 GlnValGlyAspPheHisTyrValThrGlyMetThrThrAspAsnLeuLysCysProCys
 CAGGTGGGGGACTTCCACTACGTGACGGGTATGACTACTGACAATCTCAAATGCCCGTGC
 GTCCACCCCCCTGAAGGTGATGCACTGCCATACTGATGACTGTTAGAGTTTACGGGCACG
 6001 GlnValProSerProGluPhePheThrGluLeuAspGlyValArgLeuHisArgPheAla
 CAGGTCCCATCGCCGAATTTTTTACAGAATTGGACGGGGTGGCCTACATAGGTTTGCG
 GTCCAGGGTAGCGGGCTAAAAAGTGTCTTAACCTGCCCCACGCGGATGTATCCAAACGC
 6061 ProProCysLysProLeuLeuArgGluGluValSerPheArgValGlyLeuHisGluTyr
 CCCCCCTGCAAGCCCTTGCTGCGGGAGGAGGTATCATTCAGAGTAGGACTCCACGAATAC
 GGGGGGACGTTCCGGAACGACGCCCTCTCCATAGTAAGTCTCATCTGAGGTGCTTATG
 6121 ProValGlySerGlnLeuProCysGluProGluProAspValAlaValLeuThrSerMet
 CCGGTAGGGTCGCAATTACCTTGCGAGCCCGAACCGGACGTGGCCGTGTTGACGTCCATG
 GGCCATCCCAGCGTTAATGGAACGCTCGGGCTTGCCCTGCACCGGCACAACCTGACGGTAC
 6181 LeuThrAspProSerHisIleThrAlaGluAlaAlaGlyArgArgLeuAlaArgGlySer
 CTCCTGATCCCTCCATATAACAGCAGAGGCGGCCGGCGGAAGGTTGGCGAGGGATCA
 GAGTGACTAGGGAGGGTATATTGTCGTCTCGCGCGCCCGCTTCCAACCGCTCCCTAGT
 6241 ProProSerValAlaSerSerSerAlaSerGlnLeuSerAlaProSerLeuLysAlaThr
 CCCCCCTCTGTGGCCAGCTCCTCGGCTAGCCAGCTATCCGCTCCATCTCTCAAGGCAACT
 GGGGGGAGACACCGGTCGAGGAGCCGATCGGTGATAGGCGAGGTAGAGAGTTCCGTTGA
 6301 CysThrAlaAsnHisAspSerProAspAlaGluLeuIleGluAlaAsnLeuLeuTrpArg
 TGCACCGCTAACCATGACTCCCTGATGCTGAGCTCATAGAGGCCAACCTCCTATGGAGG
 ACGTGGCGATTGGTACTGAGGGGACTACGACTCGAGTATCTCCGGTTGGAGGATACCTCC
 6361 GlnGluMetGlyGlyAsnIleThrArgValGluSerGluAsnLysValValIleLeuAsp
 CAGGAGATGGGCGGCAACATCACCAGGGTTGAGTCAGAAAACAAAGTGGTGATTCTGGAC
 GTCTCTACCCGCCGTTGTAGTGGTCCCAACTCAGTCTTTTGTTCACCACTAAGACCTG
 6421 SerPheAspProLeuValAlaGluGluAspGluArgGluIleSerValProAlaGluIle
 TCCTTCGATCCGCTTGTTGGCGGAGGAGACGAGCGGGAGATCTCCGTACCCGCAGAAATC
 AGGAAGCTAGGCGAACACCGCTCCTCCTGCTCGCCCTCTAGAGGCATGGGCGTCTTTAG
 6481 LeuArgLysSerArgArgPheAlaGlnAlaLeuProValTrpAlaArgProAspTyrAsn
 CTGCGGAAGTCTCGGAGATTCGCCCCAGGCCCTGCCGTTTGGGCGCGGCCGGACTATAAC
 GACGCCTTCAGAGCCTCTAAGCGGGTCCGGGACGGGCAACCCGCGCCGCTGATATTG
 6541 ProProLeuValGluThrTrpLysLysProAspTyrGluProProValValHisGlyCys
 CCCCCGCTAGTGGAGACGTGAAAAAGCCCGACTACGAACCACTGTGGTCCATGGCTGT
 GGGGGCGATCACCTCTGCACCTTTTTCGGGCTGATGCTTGGTGGACACCAGGTACCGACA
 6601 ProLeuProProProLysSerProProValProProProArgLysLysArgThrValVal
 CCGCTTCCACCTCCAAAGTCCCTCCTGTGCCTCCGCTCGGAAGAAGCGGACGGTGGTC
 GGCGAAGGTGGAGGTTTCAGGGGAGGACACGGAGGCGGAGCCTTCTTCGCTGCCACAG
 6661 LeuThrGluSerThrLeuSerThrAlaLeuAlaGluLeuAlaThrArgSerPheGlySer
 CTCCTGAATCAACCCTATCTACTGCCTTGCCGAGCTCGCCACCAGAAGCTTTGGCAGC
 GAGTGACTTAGTTGGATAGATGACGGAACCGGCTCGAGCGGTGGTCTTCGAAACCGTCG
 6721 SerSerThrSerGlyIleThrGlyAspAsnThrThrThrSerSerGluProAlaProSer
 TCCTCAACTTCCGGCATTACGGGCGACAATACGACAACATCCTCTGAGCCCGCCCTTCT
 AGGAGTTGAAGGCCGTAATGCCCGCTGTTATGCTGTTGTAGGAGACTCGGGCGGGGAAGA

FIGURE 16-7

6781 GlyCysProProAspSerAspAlaGluSerTyrSerSerMetProProLeuGluGlyGlu
 GGCTGCCCCCGACTCCGACGCTGAGTCTATTCTCCATGCCCCCTGGAGGGGGAG
 CCGACGGGGGGGCTGAGGCTGCGACTCAGGATAAGGAGGTACGGGGGGGACCTCCCCCTC
 6841 ProGlyAspProAspLeuSerAspGlySerTrpSerThrValSerSerGluAlaAsnAla
 CCTGGGGATCCGGATCTTAGCGACGGGTCAATGGTCAACGGTCAGTAGTGAGGCCAACGCG
 GGACCCCTAGGCCTAGAATCGCTGCCCAGTACCAGTTGCCAGTCATCACTCCGGTTGCGC
 6901 GluAspValValCysCysSerMetSerTyrSerTrpThrGlyAlaLeuValThrProCys
 GAGGATGTGCTGTGCTGCTCAATGTCTTACTCTTGGACAGGCGCACTCGTCACCCCGTGC
 CTCCTACAGCACACGACGAGTTACAGAATGAGAACCTGTCCGCGTGAGCAGTGGGGCAGC
 6961 AlaAlaGluGluGlnLysLeuProIleAsnAlaLeuSerAsnSerLeuLeuArgHisHis
 GCCGCGGAAGAACAGAACTGCCCATCAATGCACTAAGCAACTCGTTGCTACGTCACCAC
 CGGCGCCTTCTTGCTTTTGACGGGTAGTACGTGATTCTGTTGAGCAACGATGCAGTGGTG
 7021 AsnLeuValTyrSerThrThrSerArgSerAlaCysGlnArgGlnLysLysValThrPhe
 AATTTGGTGTATTCCACCACCTCACGCACTGCTTGCCAAAGGCAGAAAGTCACTTT
 TTAAACCACATAAGGTGGTGGAGTGCGTCACGAACGGTTCCGCTCTTCTTCAGTGTAA
 7081 AspArgLeuGlnValLeuAspSerHisTyrGlnAspValLeuLysGluValLysAlaAla
 GACAGACTGCAAGTTCTGGACAGCCATTACCAGGACGTACTCAAGGAGGTTAAAGCAGCG
 CTGTCTGACGTTCAAGACCTGTGCGTAATGGTCTCATGAGTTCTCCAATTCGTCGC
 7141 AlaSerLysValLysAlaAsnLeuLeuSerValGluGluAlaCysSerLeuThrProPro
 GCGTCAAAAGTGAAGGCTAACTTGCTATCCGTAGAGGAAGCTTGACAGCTGACGCCCCCA
 CGCAGTTTTCACTTCCGATTGAACGATAGGCATCTCTTCAACGTCGGACTGCGGGGGT
 7201 HisSerAlaLysSerLysPheGlyTyrGlyAlaLysAspValArgCysHisAlaArgLys
 CACTCAGCCAAATCCAAGTTTGGTTATGGGGCAAAGACGTCGGTTGCCATGCCAGAAAG
 GTGAGTGGGTTTAGGTTCAAACCAATACCCCGTTTTCTGCAGGCAACGGTACGGTCTTTC
 7261 AlaValThrHisIleAsnSerValTrpLysAspLeuLeuGluAspAsnValThrProIle
 GCCGTAAGCCACATCAACTCCGTGTGGAAAGACCTTCTGGAAGACAATGTAAACCCAATA
 CGGCATTGGGTGTAGTTGAGGCACACCTTCTGGAAGACCTTCTGTTACATTGTGGTTAT
 7322 AspThrThrIleMetAlaLysAsnGluValPheCysValGlnProGluLysGlyGlyArg
 GACACTACCATCATGGCTAAGAACGAGGTTTTCTGCGTTACGCTGAGAAAGGGGGTCTGT
 CTGTGATGGTAGTACCGATTCTTGCTCCAAAGACGCAAGTGGGACTCTTCCCCCAGCA
 7381 LysProAlaArgLeuIleValPheProAspLeuGlyValArgValCysGluLysMetAla
 AAGCCAGCTCGTCTCATCGTGTTCGCCGATCTGGGCGTGCGCGTGTGCGAAAGATGGCT
 TTCGGTCGAGCAGAGTAGCACAGGGGCTAGACCCGCACGCGCACAGCTTTTCTACCGA
 7441 LeuTyrAspValValThrLysLeuProLeuAlaValMetGlySerSerTyrGlyPheGln
 TTGTACGACGTGGTTACAAAGCTCCCTTGCCCGTGATGGGAAGCTCCTACGGATTCCAA
 AACATGCTGCACCAATGTTTCGAGGGGAACCGGCACTACCCTTCGAGGATGCCTAAGGTT
 7501 TyrSerProGlyGlnArgValGluPheLeuValGlnAlaTrpLysSerLysLysThrPro
 TACTCACCAGGACAGCGGGTTGAATTCCTCGTGCAAGCGTGGAAGTCCAAGAAAACCCCA
 ATGAGTGGTCTGTGCGCCCAACTTAAGGAGCACGTTTCGCACCTTCAGGTTCTTTTGGGGT
 7561 MetGlyPheSerTyrAspThrArgCysPheAspSerThrValThrGluSerAspIleArg
 ATGGGGTTCTCGTATGATACCCGCTGCTTTGACTCCACAGTCACTGAGAGCGACATCCGT
 TACCCCAAGAGCATACTATGGGCGACGAACTGAGGTGTCACTGACTCTCGCTGTAGGCA
 7621 ThrGluGluAlaIleTyrGlnCysCysAspLeuAspProGlnAlaArgValAlaIleLys
 ACGGAGGAGGCAATCTACCAATGTTGTGACCTCGACCCCAAGCCCGCTGGCCATCAAG
 TGCTCTCTCGTTAGATGGTTACAACACTGGAGCTGGGGGTTCCGGGCGACCGGTAGTTC
 7681 SerLeuThrGluArgLeuTyrValGlyGlyProLeuThrAsnSerArgGlyGluAsnCys
 TCCCTACCGAGAGGCTTTATGTTGGGGGCCCTTACCAATTCAAGGGGGGAGAAGTGC
 AGGGAGTGGCTCTCCGAAATACAACCCCGGAGAATGGTTAAGTTCCCTCTCTTGACG
 7741 GlyTyrArgArgCysArgAlaSerGlyValLeuThrThrSerCysGlyAsnThrLeuThr
 GGCTATCGCAGGTGCCGCGGAGCGGCTACTGACAACCTAGCTGTGGTAACACCCTCACT

FIGURE 16-8

CCGATAGCGTCCACGGCGCGCTCGCCGCATGACTGTTGATCGACACCATTGTGGGAGTGA
 7801 CysTyrIleLysAlaArgAlaAlaCysArgAlaAlaGlyLeuGlnAspCysThrMetLeu
 TGCTACATCAAGGCCCCGGGCAGCCTGTCGAGCCGCAGGGCTCCAGGACTGCACCATGCTC
 ACGATGTAGTTCCGGGCCCCGTCGGACAGCTCGGCGTCCCGAGGTCCCTGACGTGGTACGAG
 7861 ValCysGlyAspAspLeuValValIleCysGluSerAlaGlyValGlnGluAspAlaAla
 GTGTGTGGCGACGACTTAGTCGTTATCTGTGAAAGCGCGGGGTCCAGGAGGACCGCGCG
 CACACACCGCTGCTGAATCAGCAATAGACACTTTCGCGCCCCCAGGTCCCTCTGCGCCGC
 7921 SerLeuArgAlaPheThrGluAlaMetThrArgTyrSerAlaProProGlyAspProPro
 AGCCTGAGAGCCTTCACGGAGGCTATGACCAGGTACTCCGCCCCCTGGGGACCCCCCA
 TCGGACTCTCGGAAGTGCTCCGATACTGGTCCATGAGGCGGGGGGACCCCTGGGGGGT
 7981 GlnProGluTyrAspLeuGluLeuIleThrSerCysSerSerAsnValSerValAlaHis
 CAACCAGAATACGACTTGGAGCTCATAACATCATGCTCCTCCAACGTGTCAGTCGCCCCAC
 GTTGGTCTTATGCTGAACCTCGAGTATTGTAGTACGAGGAGGTTGCACAGTCAGCGGGTG
 8041 AspGlyAlaGlyLysArgValTyrTyrLeuThrArgAspProThrThrProLeuAlaArg
 GACGGCGCTGGAAGAGGGTCTACTACCTCACCCGTGACCCTACAACCCCCCTCGCGAGA
 CTGCCGCGACCTTCTCCAGATGATGGAGTGGGCACTGGGATGTTGGGGGAGCGCTCT
 8101 AlaAlaTrpGluThrAlaArgHisThrProValAsnSerTrpLeuGlyAsnIleIleMet
 GCTGCGTGGGAGACAGCAAGACACACTCCAGTCAATCCTGGCTAGGCAACATAATCATG
 CGACGCACCCCTCTGTCGTTCTGTGTGAGGTCAGTTAAGGACCGATCCGTTGTATTAGTAC
 8161 PheAlaProThrLeuTrpAlaArgMetIleLeuMetThrHisPhePheSerValLeuIle
 TTTGCCCCCAGCTGTGGGCGAGGATGATACTGATGACCCATTTCTTTAGCGTCCTTATA
 AAACGGGGGTGTGACACCCGCTCCTACTATGACTACTGGGTAAAGAAATCGCAGGAATAT
 8221 AlaArgAspGlnLeuGluGlnAlaLeuAspCysGluIleTyrGlyAlaCysTyrSerIle
 GCCAGGGACGAGCTTGAACAGGCCCTCGATTGCGAGATCTACGGGGCCTGCTACTCCATA
 CGGTCCCTGGTCAACTGTCCGGGAGCTAACGCTCTAGATGCCCCGACGATGAGGTAT
 8281 GluProLeuAspLeuProProIleIleGlnArgLeu
 GAACCACTTGATCTACCTCCAATCATTCAAAGACTC
 CTTGGTGAAC TAGATGGAGGTTAGTAAGTTTCTGAG

FIGURE 16-9

-319 CACTCCACCATGAATCACTCCCCTGTGAGGAACACTGTCTTCACGCAGAAAGCGTCTAG
GTGAGGTGGTACTTAGTGAGGGGACACTCCTTGATGACAGAAGTGGTCTTTCCGAGATC

-259 CCATGGCGTTAGTATGAGTGTGCTGCAGCCTCCAGGACCCCCCTCCCGGGAGAGCCATA
GGTACCGCAATCATACTCACAGCACGTGCGAGGTCTGGGGGGAGGGCCCTCTCGGTAT

-199 GTGGTCTGCGGAACCGGTGAGTACACCGGAATTGCCAGGACGACCGGGTCTTTCTTGGGA
CACCAGACGCCTTGGCCACTCATGTGGCCTTAACGGTCTGTGSCCAGGAAAGAACCT

-139 TCAACCCGCTCAATGCCTGGAGATTTGGGCGTGCCCCCGCAAGACTGCTAGCCGAGTAGT
AGTTGGGCGAGTTACGGACCTCTAAACCCGACGGGGCGTTCTGACGATCGGCTCATCA

- 79 GTTGGGTGCGGAAAGGCCTTGTGGTACTGCCTGATAGGGTGCTTGGAGTGCCCCGGGAG
CAACCCAGCGCTTTCCGGAACACCATGACGGACTATCCACGAACGCTCACGGGGCCCTC

- 19 GTCTCGTAGACCGTGCACC
CAGAGCATCTGGCACGTGG

Arg Thr

1 MetSerThrAsnProLysProGlnLysLysAsnLysArgAsnThrAsnArgArgProGln
ATGAGCACGAATCCTAAACCTCAAAAAAAAAACAAACGTAACACCAACCGTCGCCCACAG
TACTCGTGCTTAGGATTTGGAGTTTTTTTTTTTGTGTTGCATTGTGGTTGGCAGCGGGTGTC

61 AspValLysPheProGlyGlyGlyGlnIleValGlyGlyValTyrLeuLeuProArgArg
GACGTCAAGTTCCCGGGTGGCGGTGAGATCGTTGGTGGAGTTTACTGTGTCGCGCGCAGG
CTGCAGTTCAAGGGCCACCGCCAGTCTAGCAACCACCTCAATGAACAACGGCGCGTCC

121 GlyProArgLeuGlyValArgAlaThrArgLysThrSerGluArgSerGlnProArgGly
GGCCCTAGATTGGGTGTGCGCGCGACGAGAAAGACTTCCGAGCGGTGCGAACCTCGAGGT
CCGGGATCTAACCCACACGCGCGCTGCTCTTCTGAAGGCTCGCCAGCGTTGGAGCTCCA

181 ArgArgGlnProIleProLysAlaArgArgProGluGlyArgThrTrpAlaGlnProGly
AGACGTCAGCCTATCCCCAAGGCTCGTCGGCCCCGAGGGCAGGACCTGGGCTCAGCCCGGG
TCTGCAGTCGGATAGGGGTTCGAGCAGCGGGCTCCCGTCTGGACCCGAGTCGGGCC

241 TyrProTrpProLeuTyrGlyAsnGluGlyCysGlyTrpAlaGlyTrpLeuLeuSerPro
TACCCCTGGCCCCCTCTATGGCAATGAGGCTGCGGGTGGGCGGATGGCTCCTGTCTCCC
ATGGGAACCGGGGAGATACCGTTACTCCGACGCCCCACCGCCCTACCGAGGACAGAGGG

301 ArgGlySerArgProSerTrpGlyProThrAspProArgArgArgSerArgAsnLeuGly
CGTGGCTCTCGGCCCTAGCTGGGGCCCCACAGACCCCGCGTAGGTGCGCAATTGGGT
GCACCGAGAGCCGGATCGACCCCGGGTGTCTGGGGGCGCATCCAGCGCGTTAAACCCA

361 LysValIleAspThrLeuThrCysGlyPheAlaAspLeuMetGlyTyrIleProLeuVal
AAGGTCATCGATACCCCTTACGTGCGGCTTCGCGACCTCATGGGGTACATACCGCTCGTC
TTCCAGTAGCTATGGGAATGCACGCCGAAGCGGCTGGAGTACCCCATGTATGGCGAGCAG

421 GlyAlaProLeuGlyGlyAlaAlaArgAlaLeuAlaHisGlyValArgValLeuGluAsp
GGCGCCCCCTTGGAGGCGCTGCCAGGGCCCTGGCGCATGGCGTCCGGGTTCTGGAAGAC
CCGCGGGGAGAACCTCCGCGACGGTCCCGGGACCGGTACCGCAGGCCCAAGACCTTCTG

Thr

481 GlyValAsnTyrAlaThrGlyAsnLeuProGlyCysSerPheSerIlePheLeuLeuAla
GGCGTGAATATGCAACAGGGAACCTTCTGGTTGCTCTTTCTCTATCTTCCTTCTGGCC
CCGCACTTGATACGTTGTCCCTTGAAGGACCAACGAGAAAGAGATAGAAGGAAGACCGG

541 LeuLeuSerCysLeuThrValProAlaSerAlaTyrGlnValArgAsnSerThrGlyLeu
CTGCTCTCTTGTGTTGACTGTGCCCCGCTTCGGCTACCAAGTGGCGCAACTCCACGGGGCTT
GACGAGAGAACGAACGTGACACGGGCGAAGCCGGATGGTTCACGCGTTGAGGTGCCCCGAA

601 TyrHisValThrAsnAspCysProAsnSerSerIleValTyrGluAlaAlaAspAlaIle
TACCACGTACCAATGATTGCCCTAACTCGAGTATTGTGTACGAGGCGGCCGATGCCATC
ATGGTGCAGTGGTTACTAACGGGATTGAGCTCATAACACATGCTCCGCCGGCTACGGTAG

661 LeuHisThrProGlyCysValProCysValArgGluGlyAsnAlaSerArgCysTrpVal
CTGCACACTCCGGGGTGGTCCCTTGCCTTCGTGAGGGCAACGCTCGAGGTGTGGGTG
GACGTGTGAGGCCCCACGAGGGAACGCAAGCACTCCCGTTGCGGAGCTCCACAACCCAC

Fig. 17-1

721 AlaMetThrProThrValAlaThrArgAspGlyLysLeuProAlaThrGlnLeuArgArg
 GCGATGACCCCTACGGTGGCCACCAGGGATGGCAAACCTCCCGCGACGCAGCTTCGACGT
 CGCTACTGGGGATGCCACCGGTGGTCCCTACCGTTTGAGGGGCGCTGCGTCCAAGCTGCA

 781 HisIleAspLeuLeuValGlySerAlaThrLeuCysSerAlaLeuTyrValGlyAspLeu
 CACATCGATCTGCTTGTCTGGGAGCGCCACCCTCTGTTCGGCCCTCTACGTGGGGGACCTA
 GTGTAGCTAGACGAACAGCCCTCGCGGTGGGAGACAAGCCGGGAGATGCACCCCTGGAT

 841 CysGlySerValPheLeuValGlyGlnLeuPheThrPheSerProArgArgHisTrpThr
 TGCGGGTCTGTCTTTCTTGTCTGGCCAACTGTTCACCTTCTCTCCAGGCGCCACTGGACG
 ACGCCACAGACAGAAAGAACAGCCGGTTGACAAGTGAAGAGAGGGTCCGCGGTGACCTGC

 901 ThrGlnGlyCysAsnCysSerIleTyrProGlyHisIleThrGlyHisArgMetAlaTrp
 ACCAAGGTTGCAATGCTCTATCTATCCCGGCCATATAACGGGTCAACGCATGGCATGG
 TCGCTTCCAACGTTAACGAGATAGATAGGGCCGGTATATTGCCAGTGGCGTACCGTACC

 Val
 961 AspMetMetMetAsnTrpSerProThrThrAlaLeuValMetAlaGlnLeuLeuArgIle
 GATATGATGATGAACGGTCCCTACGACGGCGTTGGTAATGGCTCAGCTGCTCCGGATC
 CTATACTACTACTTGACCAGGGGATGCTGCCGCAACCATTACCGAGTCGACGAGGCCTAG

 1021 ProGlnAlaIleLeuAspMetIleAlaGlyAlaHisTrpGlyValLeuAlaGlyIleAla
 CCACAAGCCATCTTGGACATGATCGCTGGTGTCTCACTGGGGAGTCTGGCGGGCATAGCG
 GGTGTTCCGGTAGAACCTGTACTAGCGACCACGAGTGACCCCTCAGGACCGCCCGTATCGC

 1081 TyrPheSerMetValGlyAsnTrpAlaLysValLeuValValLeuLeuLeuPheAlaGly
 TATTTCTCCATGGTGGGGAAGTGGGCGAAGGTCTGGTAGTGTCTGCTATTGCGCGC
 ATAAAGAGGTACCACCCCTTGACCGCTTCAGGACCATCAGGACGACGATAAACCGCCG

 1141 ValAspAlaGluThrHisValThrGlyGlySerAlaGlyHisThrValSerGlyPheVal
 GTCGACGCGGAAACCCACGTACCGGGGGAAGTGCCGGCCACACTGTGTCTGGATTGTT
 CAGCTGCGCCTTTGGGTGCAGTGGCCCCCTTCACGGCCGGTGTGACACAGACCTAAACAA

 1201 SerLeuLeuAlaProGlyAlaLysGlnAsnValGlnLeuIleAsnThrAsnGlySerTrp
 AGCCTCCTCGCACCAGGCGCCAAGCAGAAGCTCCAGCTGATCAACACCAACGGCAGTTGG
 TCGGAGGAGCGTGGTCCGCGGTTCTGTCTGCAGGTGACTAGTTGTGGTTGCCGTCAACC

 1261 HisLeuAsnSerThrAlaLeuAsnCysAsnAspSerLeuAsnThrGlyTrpLeuAlaGly
 CACCTCAATAGCACGGCCCTGAAGTGAATGATAGCCTCAACACCGGCTGGTTGGCAGGG
 GTGGAGTTATCGTGCGGGGACTTGACGTTACTATCGGAGTTGTGGCCGACCAACCGTCCC

 1321 LeuPheTyrHisHisLysPheAsnSerSerGlyCysProGluArgLeuAlaSerCysArg
 CTTTTCTATCACCACAAGTTCAACTCTTCAGGCTGTCTGAGAGGCTAGCCAGCTGCCGA
 GAAAAGATAGTGGTGTCAAGTTGAGAAGTCCGACAGGACTCTCCGATCGGTCCGACGGCT

 1381 ProLeuThrAspPheAspGlnGlyTrpGlyProIleSerTyrAlaAsnGlySerGlyPro
 CCCCTTACCGATTTTGACCAGGGCTGGGGCCCTATCAGTTATGCCAACGGAAGCGGCCCC
 GGGGAATGGCTAAACTGGTCCCGACCCCGGGATAGTCAATACGGTTGCCCTTCGCGGGG

 1441 AspGlnArgProTyrCysTrpHisTyrProProLysProCysGlyIleValProAlaLys
 GACCAGCGCCCTACTGCTGGCACTACCCCCAAAACCTTGGCGTATTGTGCCCGCGAAG
 CTGGTCCGCGGGATGACGACCGTGATGGGGGGTTTTGGAACGCCATAACACGGGCGCTTC

 1501 SerValCysGlyProValTyrCysPheThrProSerProValValValGlyThrThrAsp
 AGTGTGTGTGGTCCGGTATATTGCTTCACTCCAGCCCCGTGGTGGTGGGAACGACCGAC
 TCACACACACCAGGCCATATAACGAAGTGAGGGTCCGGGACCAACACCCCTTGCTGGCTG

 1561 ArgSerGlyAlaProThrTyrSerTrpGlyGluAsnAspThrAspValPheValLeuAsn
 AGGTCCGGCGCGCCACCTACAGCTGGGGTGAAAATGATACGGACGTCTTCGTCCTTAAC
 TCCAGCCCGCGCGGGTGGATGTCGACCCCACTTTTACTATGCCTGCAGAAGCAGGAATTG

 1621 AsnThrArgProProLeuGlyAsnTrpPheGlyCysThrTrpMetAsnSerThrGlyPhe
 AATACCAGGCCACCGCTGGGCAATTGGTTCTGGTTGTACCTGGATGAACCTCAACTGGATT
 TTATGGTCCGGTGGCGACCCGTTAACCAAGCCAACATGGACCTACTTGAGTTGACCTAAG

Fig. 17-2

ThrLysValCysGlyAlaProProCysValIleGlyGlyAlaGlyAsnAsnThrLeuHis
 1681 ACCAAAGTGTGCGGAGCGCCTCCTTGTGTATCGGAGGGGCGGCAACAACACCCCTGCAC
 TGGTTTCACACGCCTCGCGGAGGAACACAGTAGCCTCCCCGCCGTTGTTGTGGGACGTG

 CysProThrAspCysPheArgLysHisProAspAlaThrTyrSerArgCysGlySerGly
 1741 TGCCCCACTGATTGCTTCCGCAAGCATCCGGACGCCACATACTCTCGGTGCGGCTCCGGT
 ACGGGGTGACTAACGAAGGCGTTCGTAGGCCTGCGGTGTATGAGAGCCACGCCGAGGCCA

 Leu
 ProTrpIleThrProArgCysLeuValAspTyrProTyrArgLeuTrpHisTyrProCys
 1801 CCCTGGATCACACCCAGGTGCCTGGTCGACTACCGTATAGGCTTTGGCATTATCCTTGT
 GGGACCTAGTGTGGGTCCACGGACCACTGATGGGCATATCCGAAACCGTAATAGGAACA

 ThrIleAsnTyrThrIlePheLysIleArgMetTyrValGlyGlyValGluHisArgLeu
 1861 ACCATCAACTACCATATTTAAATCAGGATGTACGTGGGAGGGGTGGAACACAGGCTG
 TGGTAGTTGATGTGGTATAAATTTAGTCTACATGCACCTCCCCAGCTTGTGTCCGAC

 GluAlaAlaCysAsnTrpThrArgGlyGluArgCysAspLeuGluAspArgAspArgSer
 1921 GAAGCTGCCTGCAACTGGACGCGGGCGAAGCTTGCGATCTGGAAGACAGGGACAGGTCC
 CTTGACGGACGTGACCTGCGCCCCGCTTGCAACGCTAGACCTTCTGTCCCTGTCCAGG

 GluLeuSerProLeuLeuLeuThrThrThrGlnTrpGlnValLeuProCysSerPheThr
 1981 GAGCTCAGCCGTTACTGCTGACCACTACACAGTGGCAGGTCTCCCGTGTTCCTTCACA
 CTCGAGTCGGGCAATGACGACTGGTGATGTGTACCGTCCAGGAGGGGCACAGGAAGTGT

 ThrLeuProAlaLeuSerThrGlyLeuIleHisLeuHisGlnAsnIleValAspValGln
 2041 ACCCTACCAGCCTTGTCCACCGGCTCATCCACCTCCACCAGAATTTGTGGACGTGCAG
 TGGGATGTTGCGAACAGGTGGCCGGAGTAGGTGGAGGTGGTCTTGTAACCTGCACGTC

 TyrLeuTyrGlyValGlySerSerIleAlaSerTrpAlaIleLysTrpGluTyrValVal
 2101 TACTTGTACGGGTGGGGTCAAGCATCGCGTCTGGGCCATTAAGTGGGAGTACGTGCTT
 ATGAACATGCCCAACCCAGTTCGTAGCGCAGGACCCGTAATTCACCTCATGCAGCAA

 LeuLeuPheLeuLeuLeuAlaAspAlaArgValCysSerCysLeuTrpMetMetLeuLeu
 2161 CTCCTGTTCTTCTGCTTGCAGACGCGCGCTCTGCTCTGCTTGTGGATGATGCTACTC
 GAGGACAAGGAAGACGAACGTCTGCGCGCGCAGACGAGGACGAACACCTACTACGATGAG

 IleSerGlnAlaGluAlaAlaLeuGluAsnLeuValIleLeuAsnAlaAlaSerLeuAla
 2221 ATATCCCAAGCGGAGGCGGCTTGGAGAACCCTCGTAATACTTAATGCAGCATCCCTGGCC
 TATAGGGTTCGCCTCCGCCGAAACCTCTGGAGCATTATGAATTACGTGCTAGGGACCGG

 GlyThrHisGlyLeuValSerPheLeuValPhePheCysPheAlaTrpTyrLeuLysGly
 2281 GGGACGCACGGTCTTGTATCCTTCCTCGTGTCTCTGCTTTGCATGTTATTTGAAGGGT
 CCCTGCGTGCCAGAACATAGGAAGGAGCACAAGAAGACGAAACGTACCATAAACTTCCCA

 LysTrpValProGlyAlaValTyrThrPheTyrGlyMetTrpProLeuLeuLeuLeuLeu
 2341 AAGTGGGTGCCCCGAGCGGTCTACACCTTCTACGGGATGTGGCCTCTCCTCTGCTCCTG
 TTCACCCACGGGCTCGCCAGATGTGAAGATGCCCTACACCGAGAGGAGGACGAGGAC

 LeuAlaLeuProGlnArgAlaTyrAlaLeuAspThrGluValAlaAlaSerCysGlyGly
 2401 TTGGCGTTGCCCCAGCGGGCTACGCGCTGGACACGGAGGTGGCCGCGTCTGTGTGGCGGT
 AACCGCAACGGGGTCGCCCGCATGCGCGACCTGTGCTCCACCGGCGCAGCACACCGCCA

 ValValLeuValGlyLeuMetAlaLeuThrLeuSerProTyrTyrLysArgTyrIleSer
 2461 GTTGTCTCTCGTCGGGTTGATGGCGCTGACTCTGTACCATATTACAAGCGTATATCAGC
 CAACAAGAGCAGCCCACTACCGCGACTGAGACAGTGGTATAATGTTCGCGATATAGTCG

 Asn
 TrpCysLeuTrpTrpLeuGlnTyrPheLeuThrArgValGluAlaGlnLeuHisValTrp
 2521 TGGTGCTTGTGGTGGCTTCAGTATTTTCTGACCAGAGTGGGAAGCGCAACTGCACGTGTGG
 ACCACGAACACCACCGAAGTCATAAAAGACTGCTCTACCTTCGCGTTGACGTGCACACC

 IleProProLeuAsnValArgGlyGlyArgAspAlaValIleLeuLeuMetCysAlaVal
 2581 ATTCCCCCCTCAACGTCCGAGGGGGGCGCGACCGCTCATCTACTCATGTGTGTGCTGTA
 TAAGGGGGGAGTTGCAGGCTCCCCCGCGCTGCGGCAGTAGAATGAGTACACACGACAT

Fig. 17-3

2641 HisProThrLeuValPheAspIleThrLysLeuLeuLeuAlaValPheGlyProLeuTrp
 CACCCGACTCTGGTATTTGACATCACCAAATTGCTGCTGGCCGTCTTCGGACCCCTTTGG
 GTGGGCTGAGACCATAAACTGTAGTGGTTTAACGACGACCGGCAGAAGCCTGGGGAAACC

 2701 IleLeuGlnAlaSerLeuLeuLysValProTyrPheValArgValGlnGlyLeuLeuArg
 ATTCTTCAAGCCAGTTTGCTTAAAGTACCCTACTTTGTGCGCGTCCAAGGCCTTCTCCGG
 TAAGAAGTTCCGTCAAACGAATTTTCATGGGATGAAACACGCGCAGGTTCCGGAAGAGGCC

 2761 PheCysAlaLeuAlaArgLysMetIleGlyGlyHisTyrValGlnMetValIleIleLys
 TTCTGCGCGTTAGCGCGGAAGATGATCGGAGGCCATTACGTGCAAATGGTCATCATTAAG
 AAGACGCGCAATCGCGCCTTCTACTAGCCTCCGTAATGCACGTTTACCAGTAGTAATTC

 2821 LeuGlyAlaLeuThrGlyThrTyrValTyrAsnHisLeuThrProLeuArgAspTrpAla
 TTAGGGGCGCTTACTGGCACCTATGTTTATAACCATCTCACTCCTCTTCGGGACTGGGCG
 AATCCCCGCGAATGACCGTGGATACAAATATTGGTAGAGTGAGGAGAAGCCCTGACCCGC

 2881 HisAsnGlyLeuArgAspLeuAlaValAlaValGluProValValPheSerGlnMetGlu
 CACAACGGCTTGGAGATCTGGCCGTGGCTGTAGAGCCAGTCGTCTTCTCCCAAATGGAG
 GTGTTGCCGAACGCTCTAGACCGGCACCGACATCTCGGTACGAGAAGAGGGTTTACCTC

 2941 ThrLysLeuIleThrTrpGlyAlaAspThrAlaAlaCysGlyAspIleIleAsnGlyLeu
 ACCAAGCTCATCGTGGGGGGCAGATACCGCCGCGTGGGTGACATCATCAACGGCTTG
 TGGTTCGAGTAGTGACCCCCGCTCTATGGCGGCGCACGCCACTGTAGTAGTTGCCGAAC

 3001 ProValSerAlaArgArgGlyArgGluIleLeuLeuGlyProAlaAspGlyMetValSer
 CCTGTTTCCGCCCGCAGGGGCGGGAGATACTGCTCGGGCCAGCCGATGGAATGGTCTCC
 GGACAAAGCGGGCGTCCCCGGCCCTCTATGACGAGCCCGTGGGTACCTTACCAGAGG

 3061 LysGlyTrpArgLeuLeuAlaProIleThrAlaTyrAlaGlnGlnThrArgGlyLeuLeu
 AAGGGGTGGAGTTGCTGGCGCCCATCACGCGGTACGCCAGACACAAGGGGCTCCTA
 TTCCCCACCTCCAACGACCGGGGTAGTGCGCATGCGGGTCTGTGTTCCCGGAGGAT

 3121 GlyCysIleIleThrSerLeuThrGlyArgAspLysAsnGlnValGluGlyGluValGln
 GGGTGCATAATCACCAGCCTAACTGGCCGGGACAAAAACCAAGTGGAGGGTGAGGTCCAG
 CCCACGTATTAGTGGTTCGGATTGACCGGCCCTGTTTTTGGTTACCTCCCACTCCAGGTC

 3181 IleValSerThrAlaAlaGlnThrPheLeuAlaThrCysIleAsnGlyValCysTrpThr
 ATTGTGTCAACTGCTGCCAAACCTTCTCGGCAACGTGCATCAATGGGGTGTGCTGGACT
 TAACACAGTTGACGACGGGTTTGGAAAGGACCGTTGCAGTAGTTACCCACACGACCTGA

 3241 ValTyrHisGlyAlaGlyThrArgThrIleAlaSerProLysGlyProValIleGlnMet
 GTCTACCACGGGGCCGGAACGAGGACCATCGCGTCACCCAAGGGTCTGTGCATCCAGATG
 CAGATGGTGCCCCGGCCTTGCTCCTGGTAGCGCAGTGGGTTCCAGGACAGTAGGTCTAC

 3301 TyrThrAsnValAspGlnAspLeuValGlyTrpProAlaProGlnGlySerArgSerLeu
 TATACCAATGTAGACCAAGACCTTGTTGGGCTGGCCCGCTCCGCAAGGTAGCCGCTCATTG
 ATATGGTTACATCTGGTTCTGGAAACACCCGACCGGGCGAGGCGTTCCATCGGGCGAGTAAC

 3361 ThrProCysThrCysGlySerSerAspLeuTyrLeuValThrArgHisAlaAspValIle
 ACACCTTGCACTTGCGGCTCCTCGGACCTTTACCTGGTCACGAGGCACGCCGATGTCATT
 TGTGGGACGTGAACGCGAGGAGCCTGGAAATGGACAGTGCTCCGTGCGGCTACAGTAA

 3421 ProValArgArgArgGlyAspSerArgGlySerLeuLeuSerProArgProIleSerTyr
 CCCGTGCGCGCGCGGGGTGATAGCAGGGGCGAGCCTGCTGTGCCCCGGGCCATTTCTTAC
 GGGCAGCGCGCGCGCCCACTATCGTCCCCGTGCGACGACGCGGGGCGGGTAAAGGATG

 3481 LeuLysGlySerSerGlyGlyProLeuLeuCysProAlaGlyHisAlaValGlyIlePhe
 TTGAAGGCTCCTCGGGGGTCCGCTGTTGTGCCCCGCGGGGCACGCCGTGGGCATATTT
 AACTTTCCGAGGAGCCCCCAGGCGACAACACGGGGCGCCCCGTGCGGCACCCGTATAAA

 3541 ArgAlaAlaValCysThrArgGlyValAlaLysAlaValAspPheIleProValGluAsn
 AGGGGCGCGGTGTGCACCCGTGGAGTGGCTAAGGCGGTGGACTTTATCCCTGTGGAGAAC
 TCCCGGCGCCACAGTGGGCACCTCACCGATTCCGCCACCTGAAATAGGGACACCTCTTG

Fig. 17-4

3601 LeuGluThrThrMetArgSerProValPheThrAspAsnSerSerProProValValPro
 CTAGAGACAACCATGAGGTCCCCGGTGTTACGGATAACTCTCTCCACCAGTAGTGCCC
 GATCTCTGTTGGTACTCCAGGGGCCACAAGTGCCTATTGAGGAGAGGTGGTCATCACGGG

3661 GlnSerPheGlnValAlaHisLeuHisAlaProThrGlySerGlyLysSerThrLysVal
 CAGAGCTTCCAGGTGGCTCACCTCCATGCTCCACAGGCAGCGGCAAAGCACCAGGTC
 GTCTCGAAGGTCCACCGAGTGGAGGTACGAGGGTGTCCGTCGCCGTTTTCTGTTCCAG

3721 ProAlaAlaTyrAlaAlaGlnGlyTyrLysValLeuValLeuAsnProSerValAlaAla
 CCGGCTGCATATGCAGCTCAGGGCTATAAGGTGCTAGTACTCAACCCCTCTGTTGCTGCA
 GGCCGACGTATACGTCGAGTCCCGATATTCCACGATCATGAGTTGGGGAGACAACGACGT

3781 ^{Leu}
 ThrLeuGlyPheGlyAlaTyrMetSerLysAlaHisGlyIleAspProAsnIleArgThr
 ACAGTGGGCTTTGGTGCTTACATGTCCAAGGCTCATGGGATCGATCCTAACATCAGGACC
 TGTGACCCGAAACCACGAATGTACAGGTTCGAGTACCCTAGCTAGGATTGTAGTCTCGG

3841 GlyValArgThrIleThrThrGlySerProIleThrTyrSerThrTyrGlyLysPheLeu
 GGGGTGAGAACAAATTACCACTGGCAGCCCCATCACGTACTCCACCTACGGCAAGTTCCTT
 CCCCCTCTTTGTTAATGGTGACCGTCGGGGTAGTGATGAGGTGGATGCCGTTCAAGGAA

3901 AlaAspGlyGlyCysSerGlyGlyAlaTyrAspIleIleIleCysAspGluCysHisSer
 GCCGACGGCGGGTGCTCGGGGGGCGCTTATGACATAATAATTTGTGACGAGTGCCACTCC
 CGGCTGCCGCCACGAGCCCCCGCAATACTGTATTATTAAACACTGCTCACGGTGAGG

3961 ThrAspAlaThrSerIleLeuGlyIleGlyThrValLeuAspGlnAlaGluThrAlaGly
 ACGGATGCCACATCCATCTTGGGCATCGGCACTGTCTTGACCAAGCAGAGACTGCGGGG
 TGCCTACGGTGTAGGTAGAACCCTAGCCGTGACAGGAAGTGGTTCGTCTCTGACGCCCC

4021 AlaArgLeuValValLeuAlaThrAlaThrProProGlySerValThrValProHisPro
 GCGAGACTGGTGTGCTCGCCACCGCCACCCCTCGGGCTCCGTCACTGTGCCCCATCCC
 CGCTCTGACCAACACGAGCGGTGGCGGTGGGGAGGCCCGAGGCAGTGACACGGGGTAGGG

4081 AsnIleGluGluValAlaLeuSerThrThrGlyGluIleProPheTyrGlyLysAlaIle
 AACATCGAGGAGGTGCTCTGTCCACCACCGGAGAGATCCCTTTTTACGGCAAGGCTATC
 TTGTAGCTCTCCAACGAGACAGGTGGTGGCCTCTCTAGGGAAAATGCCGTTCCGATAG

4141 ProLeuGluValIleLysGlyGlyArgHisLeuIlePheCysHisSerLysLysLysCys
 CCCCTCGAAGTAATCAAGGGGGGAGACATCTCATCTTCTGTATTCAAAGAAGAAGTGC
 GGGGAGCTTCATTAGTTCCTCCCTCTGTAGAGTAGAAGACAGTAAGTTCTTCTTCACG

4201 AspGluLeuAlaAlaLysLeuValAlaLeuGlyIleAsnAlaValAlaTyrTyrArgGly
 GACGAACTCGCCGCAAAGCTGGTCGCATTGGGCATCAATGCCGTGGCCTACTACCGCGGT
 CTGCTTGAGCGGCGTTTCGACCAGCGTAACCCGTAGTTACGGCACCGGATGATGGCGCCA

4261 LeuAspValSerValIleProThrSerGlyAspValValValAlaThrAspAlaLeu
 CTTGACGTGTCCGTATCCCGACCGAGCGCGATGTTGTGTCGTGGCAACCGATGCCCTC
 GAAGTGCACAGGCAGTAGGGCTGGTCCCGCTACAACAGCAGCACCGTTGGCTACGGGAG

4321 ^{Tyr}
 MetThrGlyTyrThrGlyAspPheAspSerValIleAspCysAsnThrCysValThrGln
 ATGACCGGCTATACCGGCGACTTCGACTCGGTGATAGACTGCAATACGTGTGTACCCAG
 TACTGGCCGATATGGCCGCTGAAGCTGAGCCACTATCTGACGTTATGCACACAGTGGGTC

4381 ^{Ser}
 ThrValAspPheSerLeuAspProThrPheThrIleGluThrIleThrLeuProGlnAsp
 ACAGTCGATTTTCAGCCTTGACCCTACCTTCACCATGAGACAATCACGCTCCCCAGGAT
 TGTCAGCTAAGTCGGAAGTGGGATGGAAGTGGTAAGTCTGTTAGTGGAGGGGGTCCTA

4441 AlaValSerArgThrGlnArgArgGlyArgThrGlyArgGlyLysProGlyIleTyrArg
 GCTGTCTCCCGCACTCAACGTCGGGGCAGGACTGGCAGGGGAAGCCAGGCATCTACAGA
 CGACAGAGGGCGTGAGTTGCAGCCCCGTCCTGACCGTCCCCCTTCGGTCCGTAGATGTCT

4501 PheValAlaProGlyGluArgProSerGlyMetPheAspSerSerValLeuCysGluCys
 TTTGTGGCACCGGGGAGCGCCCCCTCCGGCATGTTCCGACTCGTCCGTCTCTGTGAGTGC
 AAACACCGTGGCCCCCTCGCGGGGAGGCCGTACAAGCTGAGCAGGCAGGAGACACTCACG

Fig. 17-5

4561 TyrAspAlaGlyCysAlaTrpTyrGluLeuThrProAlaGluThrThrValArgLeuArg
 TATGACGCAGGCTGTGCTTGGTATGAGCTCACGCCCGGAGACTACAGTTAGGCTACGA
 ATACTGCGTCCGACACGAACCATACTCGAGTGCAGGGCGGCTCTGATGTCAATCCGATGCT

 4621 AlaTyrMetAsnThrProGlyLeuProValCysGlnAspHisLeuGluPheTrpGluGly
 GCGTACATGAACACCCCGGGGCTTCCCGTGTGCCAGGACCATCTTGAATTTTGGGAGGGC
 CGCATGTACTTGTGGGGCCCCGAAGGGCACACGGTCTTGGTAGAACTTAAACCCCTCCCG

 4681 ValPheThrGlyLeuThrHisIleAspAlaHisPheLeuSerGlnThrLysGlnSerGly
 GTCTTTACAGGCCTCACTCATATAGATGCCCATTTCTATCCCAGACAAAGCAGAGTGGG
 CAGAAATGTCCGGAGTGAGTATATCTACGGGTGAAAGATAGGGTCTGTTTCGTCTCACCC

 4741 GluAsnLeuProTyrLeuValAlaTyrGlnAlaThrValCysAlaArgAlaGlnAlaPro
 GAGAACCCTTCTTACCTGGTAGCGTACCAAGCCACCGTGTGCGCTAGGGCTCAAGCCCT
 CTCTTGAAGGAATGGACCATCGCATGGTTCGGTGGCACACGCGATCCCGAGTTCGGGGA

 4801 ProProSerTrpAspGlnMetTrpLysCysLeuIleArgLeuLysProThrLeuHisGly
 CCCCCATCGTGGGACAGATGTGGAAGTGTGATTCGCTCAAGCCACCCCTCCATGGG
 GGGGGTAGCACCCCTGGTCTACACCTTCAAACTAAGCGGAGTTCGGGTGGGAGGTACCC

 4861 ProThrProLeuLeuTyrArgLeuGlyAlaValGlnAsnGluIleThrLeuThrHisPro
 CCAACACCCCTGCTATACAGACTGGGCGCTGTTTCAAGATGAAATCACCCGTACGCACCCCA
 GGTGTGGGGACGATATGTCTGACCCGCGACAAGTCTTACTTTAGTGGGACTGCGTGGGT

 4921 ValThrLysTyrIleMetThrCysMetSerAlaAspLeuGluValValThrSerThrTrp
 GTCACCAAATACATCATGACATGCATGTGCGCCGACCTGGAGGTGCTCAGCAGCAGCTGG
 CAGTGGTTTATGTAGTACTGTACGTACAGCCGGCTGGACCTCCAGCAGTGTCTGTTGAC

 4981 ValLeuValGlyGlyValLeuAlaAlaLeuAlaAlaTyrCysLeuSerThrGlyCysVal
 GTGCTCGTTGGCGGCGTCCCTGGCTGCTTTGGCCGCGTATTGCTGTCAACAGGCTGCGTG
 CAGGACAAACCGCGCAGGACCGACGAAACCGGCGCATAACGGACAGTTGTCCGACGCAC

 5041 ValIleValGlyArgValValLeuSerGlyLysProAlaIleIleProAspArgGluVal
 GTCATAGTGGGCAGGGTCTGCTTGTCCGGGAAGCCGGCAATCATACCTGACAGGGAAGTC
 CAGTATCACCCGTCCAGCAGAACAGGCCCTTCGGCCGTTAGTATGGACTGTCCCTTCAG

 5101 LeuTyrArgGluPheAspGluMetGluGluCysSerGlnHisLeuProTyrIleGluGln
 CTCTACCGAGAGTTCGATGAGATGGAAGAGTGTCTCTCAGCACTTACCGTACATCGAGCAA
 GAGATGGCTCTCAAGCTACTCTACCTTCTCAGGAGAGTCTGTAATGGCATGTAGCTCGTT

 5161 GlyMetMetLeuAlaGluGlnPheLysGlnLysAlaLeuGlyLeuLeuGlnThrAlaSer
 GGGATGATGCTCGCCGAGCAGTTCAGCAGAAAGGCCCTCGGCCTCCTGCAGACCGCGTCC
 CCTACTACGAGCGGCTCGTCAAGTTCGTCTTCCGGGAGCCGGAGGACGTCTGGCGCAGG

 5221 ArgGlnAlaGluValIleAlaProAlaValGlnThrAsnTrpGlnLysLeuGluThrPhe
 CGTCAGGCAGAGGTTATCGCCCTGCTGTCCAGACCAACTGGCAAAACTCGAGACCTTC
 GCAGTCCGTCTCCAATAGCGGGGACGACAGGTCTGGTTGACCGTTTTTGTAGCTCTGGAAG

 5281 TrpAlaLysHisMetTrpAsnPheIleSerGlyIleGlnTyrLeuAlaGlyLeuSerThr
 TGGGCGAAGCATATGTGGAACCTCATCAGTGGGATACAATACTTGGCGGGCTGTGCAACG
 ACCCGCTTCGTATACACCTTGAAGTAGTCAACCTATGTTATGAACCGCCCGAACAGTTGC

 5341 LeuProGlyAsnProAlaIleAlaSerLeuMetAlaPheThrAlaAlaValThrSerPro
 CTGCCTGGTAACCCCGCATTGCTTCATTGATGGCTTTTACAGCTGCTGTACACAGCCCA
 GACGGACCATTTGGGGCGGTACGAAGTAACTACCGAAAATGTCGACGACAGTGGTCCGGT

 5401 LeuThrThrSerGlnThrLeuLeuPheAsnIleLeuGlyGlyTrpValAlaAlaGlnLeu
 CTAACCACTAGCCAAACCTCCTCTTCAACATATTGGGGGGGTGGGTGGCTGCCCAGCTC
 GATTGGTGATCGGTTTGGGAGGAGAAGTTGTATAACCCCCCACCACCGACGGGTGCGAG

 5461 AlaAlaProGlyAlaAlaThrAlaPheValGlyAlaGlyLeuAlaGlyAlaAlaIleGly
 GCGGCCCCCGGTGCGGCTACTGCTTTGTGGGGCGCTGGCTTAGCTGGCGCCGCCATCGGC
 CGGCGGGGGCCACGGCGATGACGGAACACCCGCGACCGAATCGACCGCGGCGGTAGCCG

 SerValGlyLeuGlyLysValLeuIleAspIleLeuAlaGlyTyrGlyAlaGlyValAla

Fig. 17-6

5521 AGTGTGGACTGGGGAAGGTCCTCATAGACATCCTTGCAGGGTATGGCGCGGGCGTGGCG
TCACAACCTGACCCCTTCCAGGAGTATCTGTAGGAACGTCCCATACCGCGCCCGCACCGC

Gly

5581 GlyAlaLeuValAlaPheLysIleMetSerGlyGluValProSerThrGluAspLeuVal
GGAGCTCTTGTGGCATTCAAGATCATGAGCGGTGAGGTCCCTCCACGGAGGACCTGGTC
CCTCGAGAACACCGTAAGTTCTAGTACTCGCCACTCCAGGGGAGGTGCCTCCTGGACCAG

5641 AsnLeuLeuProAlaIleLeuSerProGlyAlaLeuValValGlyValValCysAlaAla
AATCTACTGCCCGCCATCCTCTCGCCCGAGCCCTCGTAGTCGGCGTGGTCTGTGCAGCA
TTAGATGACGGGCGGTAGGAGAGCGGGCTCGGGAGCATCAGCCGACCCAGACACGTCGT

5701 IleLeuArgArgHisValGlyProGlyGluGlyAlaValGlnTrpMetAsnArgLeuIle
ATACTGCGCCGCGCAGTTGGCCCGGGCGAGGGGCGAGTGCAGTGGATGAACCGGCTGATA
TATGACGCGGCGGTGCAACCGGGCCCGCTCCCCCGTCACGTCACCTACTTGGCCGACTAT

5761 AlaPheAlaSerArgGlyAsnHisValSerProThrHisTyrValProGluSerAspAla
GCCTTCGCCTCCCGGGGAACCATGTTTCCCCACGCACTACGTGCCGGAGAGCGATGCA
CGGAAGCGGAGGGCCCCCTTGGTACAAAGGGGGTGCGTGATGCACGGCCTCTCGCTACGT

HisCys

5821 AlaAlaArgValThrAlaIleLeuSerSerLeuThrValThrGlnLeuLeuArgArgLeu
GCTGCCCCGCGTCACTGCCATACTCAGCAGCCTCACTGTAAACCAGCTCCTGAGGCGACTG
CGACGGGCGCAGTGACGGTATGAGTCGTGCGAGTGACATTGGGTGCGAGGACTCCGCTGAC

5881 HisGlnTrpIleSerSerGluCysThrThrProCysSerGlySerTrpLeuArgAspIle
CACCAGTGGATAAGCTCGGAGTGTACCACTCCATGCTCCGCTTCTGGCTAAGGGACATC
GTGGTCACCTATTTCGAGCCTCACATGGTGAGGTACGAGGCCAAGGACCGATTCCCTGTAG

5941 TrpAspTrpIleCysGluValLeuSerAspPheLysThrTrpLeuLysAlaLysLeuMet
TGGGACTGGATATGCGAGGTGTGAGCGACTTTAAGACCTGGCTAAAAGCTAAGCTCATG
ACCCTGACCTATACGCTCCACAACCTCGCTGAAATTCGTGACCGATTTTCGATTTCGAGTAC

6001 ProGlnLeuProGlyIleProPheValSerCysGlnArgGlyTyrLysGlyValTrpArg
CCACAGCTGCCTGGGATCCCCCTTTGTGTCTGCTGCCAGCGCGGGTATAAGGGGGTCTGGCGA
GGTGTGACGGACCCCTAGGGGAACACAGGACGGTTCGCGCCCATATTCCCCCAGACCGCT

Gly

6061 ValAspGlyIleMetHisThrArgCysHisCysGlyAlaGluIleThrGlyHisValLys
GTGGACGGCATCATGCACACTCGCTGCCACTGTGGAGCTGAGATCACTGGACATGTCAAA
CACCTGCCGTAGTACGTGTGAGCGACGGTGACACCTCGACTCTAGTGACCTGTACAGTTT

6121 AsnGlyThrMetArgIleValGlyProArgThrCysArgAsnMetTrpSerGlyThrPhe
AACGGGACGATGAGGATCGTCCGCTCCTAGGACCTGCAGGAACATGTGGAGTGGGACCTTC
TTGCCCTGCTACTCCTAGCAGCCAGGATCCTGGACGTCCTTGTACACCTCACCCTGGAAG

6181 ProIleAsnAlaTyrThrThrGlyProCysThrProLeuProAlaProAsnTyrThrPhe
CCCATTAAATGCCTACACCACGGGGCCCCGTACCCCCCTTCTGCGCCGAACTACACGTTT
GGGTAATTACGGATGTGGTGGCCGGGACATGGGGGAAGGACGCGGCTTGATGTGCAAG

6241 AlaLeuTrpArgValSerAlaGluGluTyrValGluIleArgGlnValGlyAspPheHis
GCGCTATGGAGGCTGTCTGCAGAGGAATATGTGGAGATAAGGCAGGTGGGGGACTTCCAC
CGCGATACCTCCACAGACGTCTCCTTATACACCTCTATTCCGTCCACCCCTGAAGGTG

6301 TyrValThrGlyMetThrThrAspAsnLeuLysCysProCysGlnValProSerProGlu
TACGTGACGGGTATGACTACTGACAATCTCAAATGCCCGTGCCAGGTCCCATCGCCCGAA
ATGCACTGCCCATACTGATGACTGTAGAGTTTACGGGCACGGTCCAGGGTAGCGGGCTT

6361 PhePheThrGluLeuAspGlyValArgLeuHisArgPheAlaProProCysLysProLeu
TTTTTTCACAGAATTGGACGGGGTGCGCTACATAGTTTTCGCCCCCTGCAAGCCCTTG
AAAAAGTGTCTTAACCTGCCCCACGCGGATGTATCCAAACGCGGGGGGACGTTCCGGGAAC

6421 LeuArgGluGluValSerPheArgValGlyLeuHisGluTyrProValGlySerGlnLeu
CTGCGGGAGGAGGTATCATTAGAGTAGGACTCCACGAATACCGGTAGGGTCGCAATTA
GACGCCCTCCTCCATAGTAAGTCTCATCTGAGGTGCTTATGGGCCATCCAGCGTTAAT

Fig. 17-7

6481 ProCysGluProGluProAspValAlaValLeuThrSerMetLeuThrAspProSerHis
 CCTTGGCAGAGCCCGAACCGGACGTGGCCGTGTTGACGTCCATGCTCACTGATCCCTCCCAT
 GGAACGCTCGGGCTTGGCCTGCACCGGCACAACCTGCAGGTACGAGTGAAGTGGGAGGGTA

 6541 IleThrAlaGluAlaAlaGlyArgArgLeuAlaArgGlySerProProSerValAlaSer
 ATAACAGCAGAGGCGGCCGCGGCAAGGTTGGCGAGGGGATCACCCCCCTCTGTGGCCAGC
 TATTGTCTGCTCCGCCGCGCCGCTTCCAACCGCTCCCTAGTGGGGGAGACACCGGTCG

 6601 SerSerAlaSerGlnLeuSerAlaProSerLeuLysAlaThrCysThrAlaAsnHisAsp
 TCCTCGGCTAGCCAGCTATCCGCTCCATCTCTCAAGGCAACTTGCACCGCTAACCATGAC
 AGGAGCCGATCGGTGATAGGCGAGGTAGAGAGTTCGTTGAACGTGGCGATTGGTACTG

 6661 SerProAspAlaGluLeuIleGluAlaAsnLeuLeuTrpArgGlnGluMetGlyGlyAsn
 TCCCTGATGCTGAGCTCATAGAGGCCAACCTCCTATGGAGGCAGGAGATGGGCGGCAAC
 AGGGGACTACGACTCGAGTATCTCCGTTGGAGGATACCTCCGTCTCTACCCGCGGTTG

 6721 IleThrArgValGluSerGluAsnLysValValIleLeuAspSerPheAspProLeuVal
 ATCACCAGGGTTGAGTCAGAAAACAAAGTGGTGATCTCTGGACTCCTTCGATCCGCTTGTG
 TAGTGGTCCCAACTCAGTCTTTTGTTCACCACTAAGACCTGAGGAAGCTAGGCGAACAC

 6781 AlaGluGluAspGluArgGluIleSerValProAlaGluIleLeuArgLysSerArgArg
 GCGGAGGAGGACGAGCGGAGATCTCCGTACCCGAGAAATCCTGCGGAAGTCTCGGAGA
 CGCCTCCTCCTGCTCGCCCTCTAGAGGCATGGGCGTCTTTAGGACGCCTTCAGAGCCTCT

 6841 PheAlaGlnAlaLeuProValTrpAlaArgProAspTyrAsnProProLeuValGluThr
 TTCGCCCAGGCCCTGCCGTTTGGGCGCGGCCGACTATAACCCCCGCTAGTGGAGACG
 AAGCGGGTCCGGGACGGGCAAACCCGCGCGGCCGTGATATTGGGGGGCGATCACCTCTGC

 6901 TrpLysLysProAspTyrGluProProValValHisGlyCysProLeuProProProLys
 TGGAAAAGCCCGACTACGAACCACTGTGGTCCATGGCTGTCCGCTTCCACCTCCAAAG
 ACCTTTTTTCGGGCTGATGCTTGGTGGACACCAGGTACCGACAGGCGAAGGTGGAGGTTTC

 6961 SerProProValProProProArgLysLysArgThrValValLeuThrGluSerThrLeu
 TCCCTCCTGTGCTCCGCTCGGAAGAAGCGGACGGTGGTCTCTCACTGAATCAACCCTA
 AGGGGAGGACACGGAGGCGGAGCCTTCTTCGCTGCCACCAGGAGTGAAGTGGGAT

 7021 Ser
 SerThrAlaLeuAlaGluLeuAlaThrArgSerPheGlySerSerSerThrSerGlyIle
 TCTACTGCCTTGGCCGAGCTCGCCACCAGAAGCTTTGGCAGCTCCTCAACTTCCGGCATT
 AGATGACGGAACCGGCTCGAGCGGTGGTCTTCGAAACCGTTCGAGGAGTTGAAGGCCGTAA

 7081 ThrGlyAspAsnThrThrThrSerSerGluProAlaProSerGlyCysProProAspSer
 ACGGGCGACAATACGACAACATCCTCTGAGCCCGCCCTTCTGGCTGCCCCCGACTCC
 TGCCCGCTGTTATGCTGTGTAGGAGACTCGGGCGGGGAAGACCGACGGGGGGCTGAGG

 7141 PheAla
 AspAlaGluSerTyrSerSerMetProProLeuGluGlyGluProGlyAspProAspLeu
 GACGCTGAGTCTTATCCTCCATGCCCCCCTGGAGGGGGAGCCTGGGGATCCGGATCTT
 CTGCGACTCAGGATAAGGAGGTACGGGGGGACCTCCCCCTCGGACCCCTAGGCCTAGAA

 7201 SerAspGlySerTrpSerThrValSerSerGluAlaAsnAlaGluAspValValCysCys
 AGCGACGGGTATGGTCAACGGTCAGTAGTGAGGCCAACGCGGAGGATGTCGTGTGCTGC
 TCGCTGCCAGTACCAGTTGCCAGTCATCACTCCGTTGCGCTCTACAGCACACGACG

 7261 SerMetSerTyrSerTrpThrGlyAlaLeuValThrProCysAlaAlaGluGluGlnLys
 TCAATGTCTTACTCTTGGACAGGCGCACTCGTCACCCCGTGGCGCGGAAGAACAGAAA
 AGTTACAGAATGAGAACCTGTCCGCTGAGCAGTGGGGCACGCGCGCCTTCTTGTCTTT

 7321 LeuProIleAsnAlaLeuSerAsnSerLeuLeuArgHisHisAsnLeuValTyrSerThr
 CTGCCCATCAATGCACTAAGCAACTCGTTGCTACGTACCCACAATTTGGTGTATTCCACC
 GACGGGTAGTTACGTGATTCTGTTAGCAACGATGCAGTGGTGTAAACCACATAAGGTGG

 7381 ThrSerArgSerAlaCysGlnArgGlnLysLysValThrPheAspArgLeuGlnValLeu
 ACCTCACGCAGTGTGCTGCCAAAGGCAGAAAGTCACATTTGACAGACTGCAAGTTCTG
 TGGAGTGCGTCACGAACGGTTTCCGTCTCTTTTCAGTGTAACCTGTCTGACGTTCAAGAC

Fig. 17-8

7441 AspSerHisTyrGlnAspValLeuLysGluValLysAlaAlaAlaSerLysValLysAla
 GACAGCCATTACCAGGACGTACTCAAGGAGGTTAAAGCAGCGCGCTCAAAGTGAAGGCT
 CTGTCCGTAATGGTCCTGCATGAGTTCCTCCAATTCGTCCCGCAGTTTTCACCTCCGA

 Phe
 7501 AsnLeuLeuSerValGluGluAlaCysSerLeuThrProProHisSerAlaLysSerLys
 AACTTGCTATCCGTAGAGGAAGCTTGACGCTGACGCCCCACACTCAGCCAAATCCAAG
 TTGAACGATAGGCATCTCCTTCGAACGTCGGACTGCGGGGGTGTGAGTCGGTTTAGGTTT

 7561 PheGlyTyrGlyAlaLysAspValArgCysHisAlaArgLysAlaValThrHisIleAsn
 TTTGGTTATGGGGCAAAGACGTCCGTGCCATGCCAGAAAGGCCGTAAACCCACATCAAC
 AAACCAATACCCCGTTTTCTGCAGGCAACGGTACGGTCTTTCCGGCATTGGGTGTAGTTG

 7621 SerValTrpLysAspLeuLeuGluAspAsnValThrProIleAspThrThrIleMetAla
 TCCGTGTGGAAGACCTTCTGGAAGACAATGTAACACCAATAGACACTACCATCATGGCT
 AGGCACACCTTTCTGGAAGACCTTCTGTTACATTGTGGTTATCTGTGATGGTAGTACCGA

 7681 LysAsnGluValPheCysValGlnProGluLysGlyGlyArgLysProAlaArgLeuIle
 AAGAACGAGGTTTTCTGCGTTCAGCCTGAGAAGGGGGTTCGTAAGCCAGCTCGTCTCATC
 TTCTTGCTCCAAAAGACGCAAGTCGGACTCTTCCCCCAGCATTCGGTCGAGCAGAGTAG

 7741 ValPheProAspLeuGlyValArgValCysGluLysMetAlaLeuTyrAspValValThr
 GTGTTCCCGGATCTGGGCGTGGCGGTGTGCGAAAAGATGGCTTTGTACGACGTGGTTACA
 CACAAGGGGCTAGACCCGACGCGCACACGCTTTTCTACCGAAACATGCTGCACCAATGT

 7801 LysLeuProLeuAlaValMetGlySerSerTyrGlyPheGlnTyrSerProGlyGlnArg
 AAGCTCCCCTTGGCCGTGATGGGAAGCTCCTACGGATTCCAATACTACCCAGGACAGCGG
 TTCGAGGGGAACCGGCCTACCCCTTCGAGGATGCCTAAGGTTATGAGTGGTCCTGTCCGC

 7861 ValGluPheLeuValGlnAlaTrpLysSerLysLysThrProMetGlyPheSerTyrAsp
 GTTGAATTCCTCGTGCAAGCGTGGAAAGTCCAAGAAAACCCCAATGGGGTTCTCGTATGAT
 CAACTTAAGGAGCACGTTTCGCACCTTCAGGTTCTTTTGGGGTTACCCCAAGAGCATACTA

 7921 ThrArgCysPheAspSerThrValThrGluSerAspIleArgThrGluGluAlaIleTyr
 ACCCGCTGCTTTGACTCCACAGTCACTGAGAGCGACATCCGTACGGAGGAGGCAATCTAC
 TGGGCGACGAAACTGAGGTGTCAGTGACTCTCGCTGTAGGCATGCCTCCTCCGTTAGATG

 7981 GlnCysCysAspLeuAspProGlnAlaArgValAlaIleLysSerLeuThrGluArgLeu
 CAATGTTGTGACCTCGACCCCCAAGCCCCGCTGGCCATCAAGTCCCTCACCGAGAGGCTT
 GTTACAACACTGGAGCTGGGGGTTCCGGGCGCACCGGTAGTTTCAGGGAGTGGCTCTCCGAA

 Gly
 8041 TyrValGlyGlyProLeuThrAsnSerArgGlyGluAsnCysGlyTyrArgArgCysArg
 TATGTTGGGGGCCCTCTTACCAATTCAAGGGGGGAGAACTGCGGCTATCGCAGGTGCCGC
 ATACAACCCCGGGGAGATGGTTAAGTTCCCCCTCTTGACCGCGATAGCGTCCACGGCG

 8101 AlaSerGlyValLeuThrThrSerCysGlyAsnThrLeuThrCysTyrIleLysAlaArg
 GCGAGCGGCGTACTGACAACTAGCTGTGGTAACACCCTCACTTGCTACATCAAGGCCCCG
 CGCTCGCCGCATGACTGTTGATCGACACCATTGTGGGAGTGAACGATGTAGTTCCGGGCC

 8161 AlaAlaCysArgAlaAlaGlyLeuGlnAspCysThrMetLeuValCysGlyAspAspLeu
 GCAGCCTGTGAGCCGCGAGGGCTCCAGGACTGCACCATGCTCGTGTGTGGCGACGACTTA
 CGTCCGACAGCTCGGCGTCCCGAGGTCTGACGTGGTACGAGCACACACCGCTGCTGAAT

 8221 ValValIleCysGluSerAlaGlyValGlnGluAspAlaAlaSerLeuArgAlaPheThr
 GTCGTTATCTGTGAAAGCGCGGGGGTCCAGGAGGACGCGGCGAGCCTGAGAGCCTTCACG
 CAGCAATAGACACTTTCGCGCCCCCAGGTCTCTCTGCGCGCTCGGACTCTCGGAAGTGC

 8281 GluAlaMetThrArgTyrSerAlaProProGlyAspProProGlnProGluTyrAspLeu
 GAGGCTATGACAGGTACTCCGCCCCCCTGGGGACCCCCACAACAGAAATACGACTTG
 CTCCGATACTGGTCCATGAGGCGGGGGGACCCCTGGGGGGTGTGGTCTTATGCTGAAC

 8341 GluLeuIleThrSerCysSerSerAsnValSerValAlaHisAspGlyAlaGlyLysArg
 GAGCTCATAACATCATGCTCCTCCAACGTGTCACTCGCCACGACGGCGCTGGAAAGAGG
 CTCGAGTATTGTAGTACGAGGAGGTTGCACAGTCAGCGGGTGTGCGCGACCTTCTCC

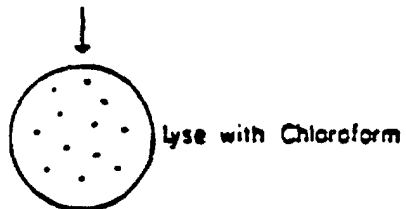
Fig. 17-9

ValTyrTyrLeuThrArgAspProThrThrProLeuAlaArgAlaAlaTrpGluThrAla
8401 GTCTACTACCTCACCCGTGACCCCTACAACCCCCCTCGCGAGAGCTGCGTGGGAGACAGCA
CAGATGATGGAGTGGGCACTGGGATGTTGGGGGGAGCGCTCTCGACGCACCCCTCTGTCTGT
ArgHisThrProValAsnSerTrpLeuGlyAsnIleIleMetPheAlaProThrLeuTrp
8461 AGACACACTCCAGTCAATTCCTGGCTAGGCAACATAATCATGTTTGCCCCACACTGTGG
TCTGTGTGAGGTCAGTTAAGGACCGATCCGTTGTATTAGTACAAACGGGGGTGTGACACC
AlaArgMetIleLeuMetThrHisPhePheSerValLeuIleAlaArgAspGlnLeuGlu
8521 GCGAGGATGATACTGATGACCCATTTCTTTAGCGTCCTTATAGCCAGGGACCAGCTTGAA
CGCTCCTACTATGACTACTGGGTAAAGAAATCGCAGGAATATCGGTCCCTGGTCGAACCT
GlnAlaLeuAspCysGluIleTyrGlyAlaCysTyrSerIleGluProLeuAspLeuPro
8581 CAGGCCCTCGATTGCGAGATCTACGGGGCGCTACTCCATAGAACCCTTGATCTACCT
GTCCGGGAGCTAACGCTCTAGATGCCCGGACGATGAGGTATCTTGGTGAAC TAGATGGA
ProIleIleGlnArgLeuHisGlyLeuSerAlaPheSerLeuHisSerTyrSerProGly
8641 CCAATCATTTCAAAGACTCCATGGCCTCAGCGCATTTTCACTCCACAGTTACTCTCCAGGT
GGTTAGTAAGTTTCTGAGGTACCGGAGTCGCGTAAAAGTGAGGTGTCAATGAGAGGTCCA
GluIleAsnArgValAlaAlaCysLeuArgLysLeuGlyValProProLeuArgAlaTrp
8701 GAAATTAATAGGGTGGCCGCATGCCTCAGAAAACCTGGGGTACCGCCCTTGCGAGCTTGG
CTTTAATTATCCCACCGGCGTACGGAGTCTTTTGAACCCCATGGCGGGAACGCTCGAACC
Gly
ArgHisArgAlaArgSerValArgAlaArgLeuLeuAlaArgGlyGlyArgAlaAlaIle
8761 AGACACCGGGCCCGGAGCGTCCGCGCTAGGCTTCTGGCCAGAGGAGGCAGGGCTGCCATA
TCTGTGGCCCGGGCCTCGCAGGCGCGATCCGAAGACCGGTCTCTCCGTCCCGACGGTAT
CysGlyLysTyrLeuPheAsnTrpAlaValArgThrLysLeuLys
8821 TGTGGCAAGTACCTCTTCAACTGGGCAGTAAGAACAAAGCTCAAAC
ACACCGTTTCATGGAGAAGTTGACCCGTCATTCTTGTTTCGAGTTTG

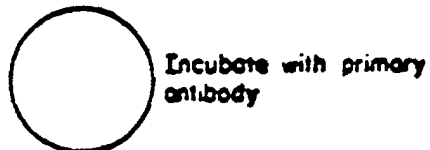
FIG. 17-10

IMMUNOLOGICAL SCREENING IN BACTERIA

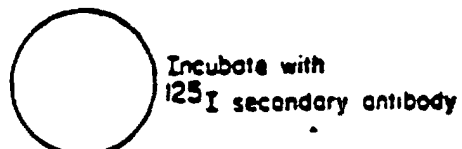
Transform E coli with Recombinant Plasmids
↓ (Blot Bacteria on Nitrocellulose filter)



↓ BSA absorption/DNAse/Lysozyme



↓ Wash



↓ Wash

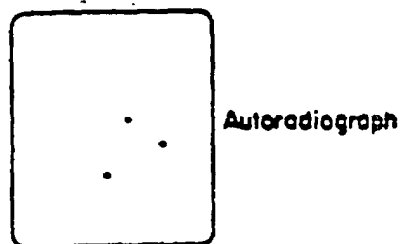


FIGURE 18

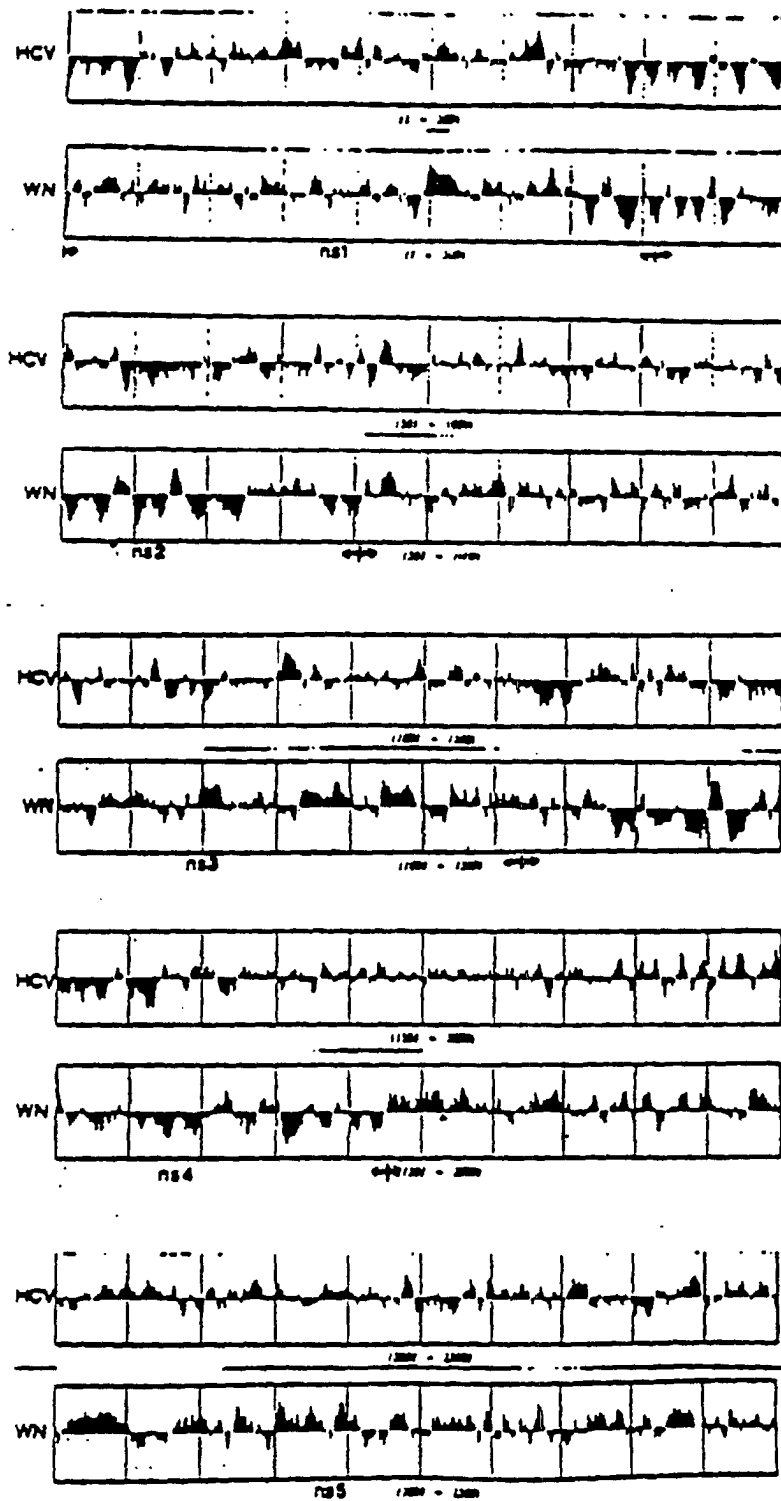


FIGURE 19

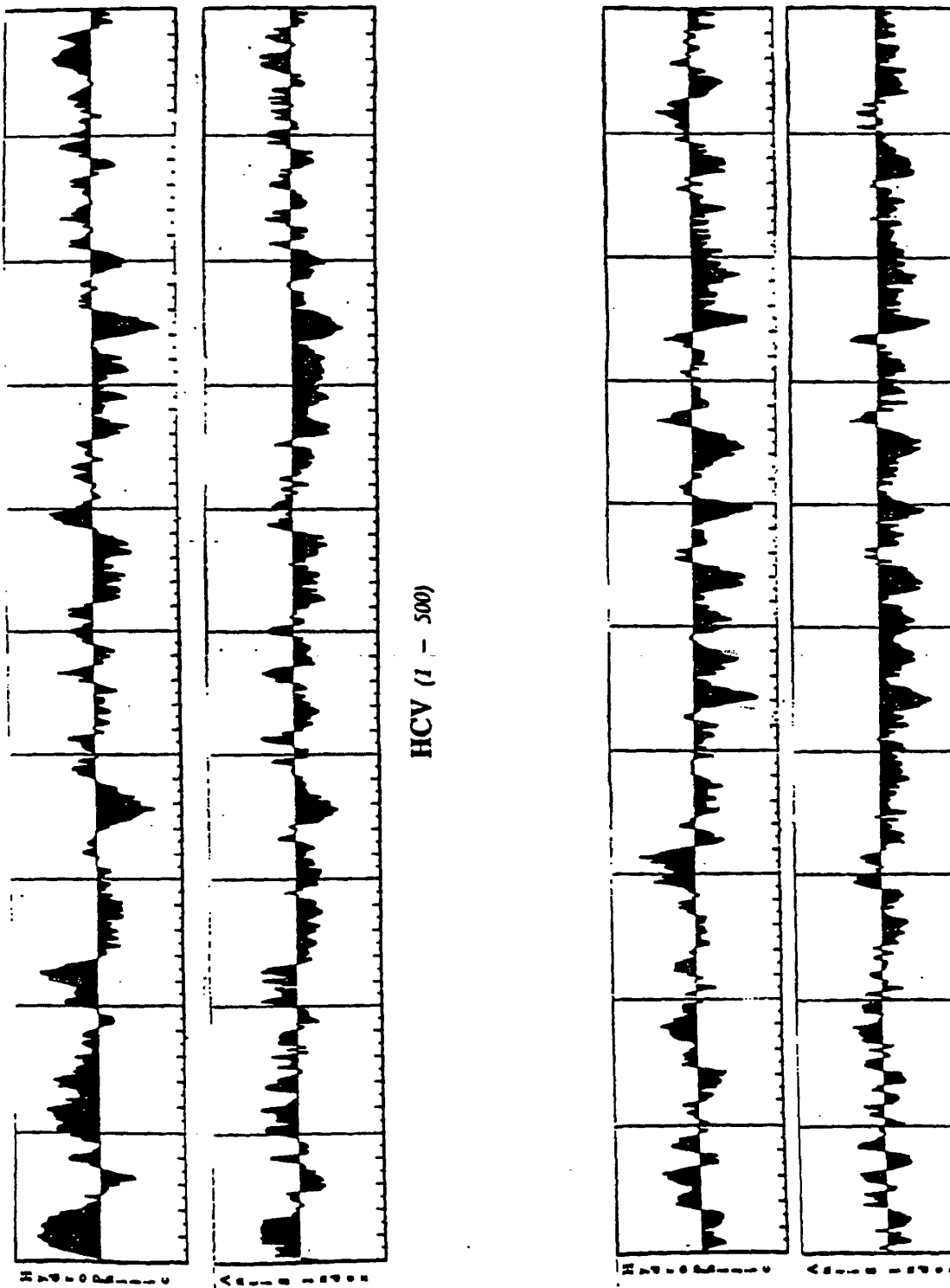


FIGURE 20-1

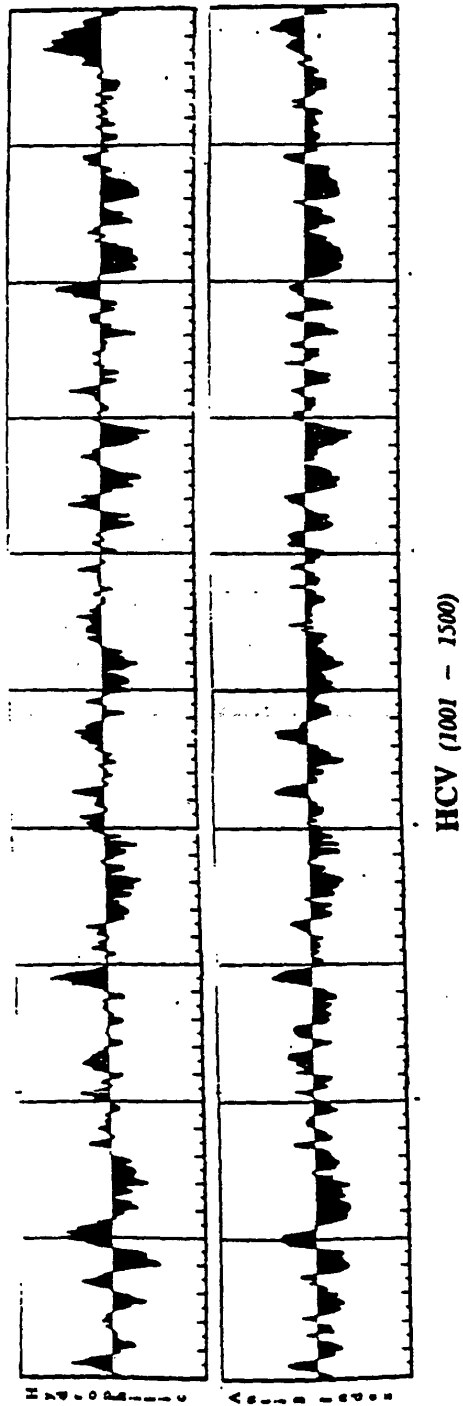
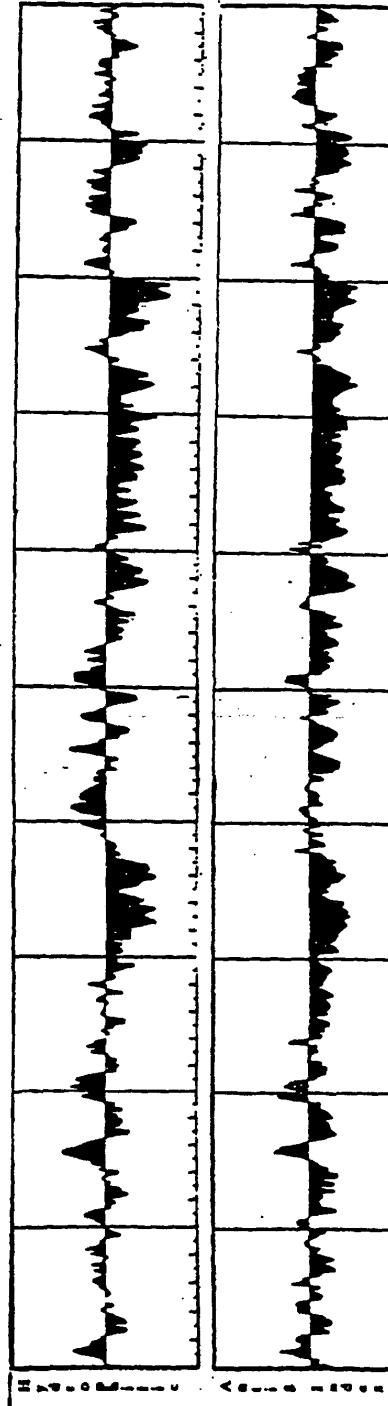
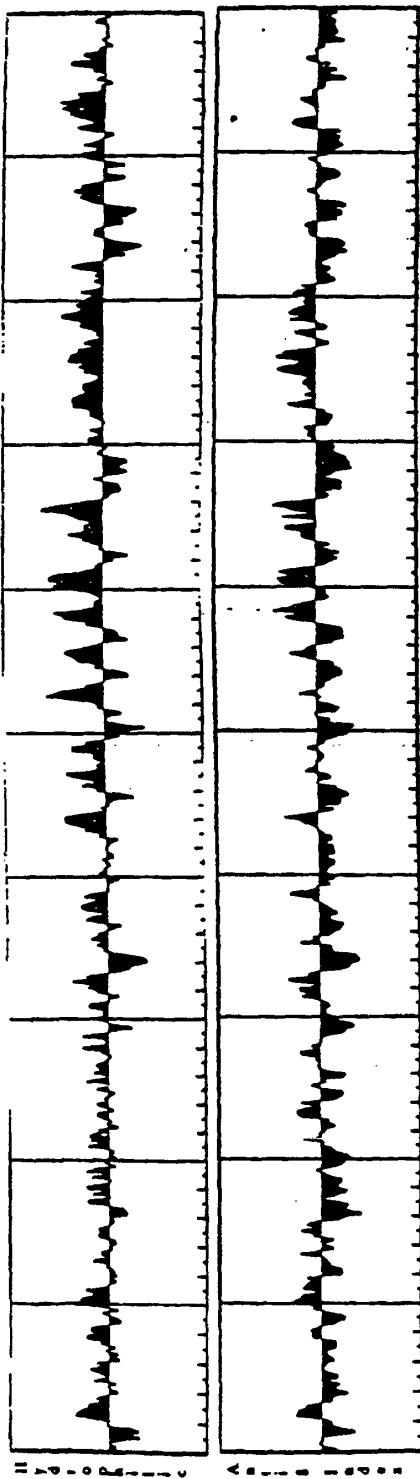


FIGURE 20-2





HCV (2001 - 2500)

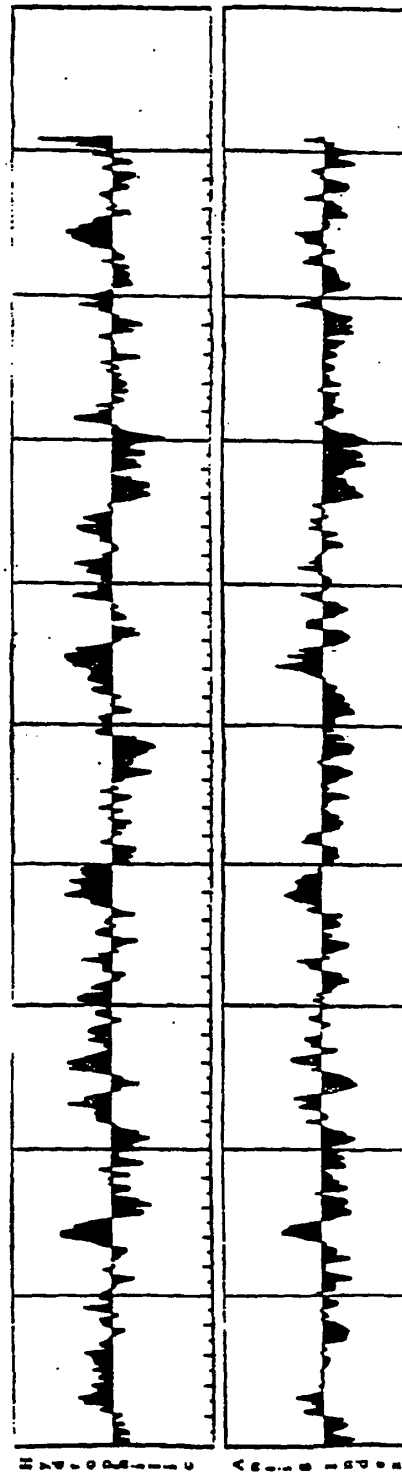


FIGURE 20-3

Some conserved co-linear peptides in HCV & Flaviviruses

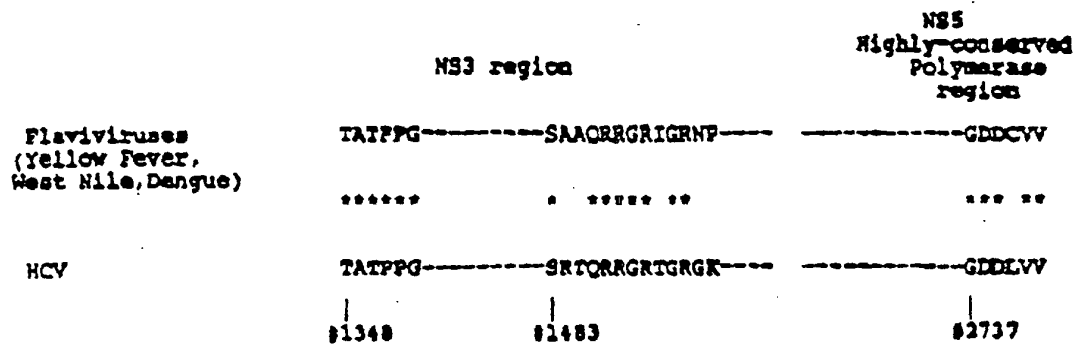


FIGURE 21