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(71) Applicant: YALE UNIVERSITY
New Haven CT 06520 (US)

(72) Inventors:

 Artavanis-Tsakonas, Spyridon, Dr. Brookline, MA 02445 (US) • Fehon, Richard Grant Durham, NC 27705 (US)

Zagouras, Panayiotis
 Old Saybrook, CT 06475 (US)

 Blaumueller, Christine Marie, Dr. 69117 Heidelberg (DE)

 (74) Representative: Silveston, Judith et al ABEL & IMRAY
 20 Red Lion Street
 London, WC1R 4PQ (GB)

Remarks:

This application was filed on 31 - 08 - 2001 as a divisional application to the application mentioned under INID code 62.

(54) Therapeutic methods and compositions based on serrate proteins and nucleic acids

(57) The present invention relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising a fragment of Serrate protein or a derivative or analog of said fragment, or comprising a derivative or analog of a Serrate protein, or comprising a protein comprising such a fragment, derivative or analog, the fragments, derivatives, analogs and proteins being characterized by the ability *in vitro*, when expressed on the surface of a first cell, to bind to a Notch protein expressed on the surface of a second cell. The invention also relates to chimeric proteins comprising

said Serrate fragments joined via a peptide bond to a protein sequence of a protein different from the Serrate protein, and to nucleic acids encoding said fragments of a Serrate protein, and encoding said chimeric proteins. According to the invention, said fragments, derivatives, analogs, and proteins, said chimeric proteins and said nucleic acids may be used as a medicament, for example, in treating or preventing malignancy in a subject.

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