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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/EP99/04939 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 12 July 1999 (12.07.99) <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 98202422.6                      17 July 1998 (17.07.98)                      EP <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> VLAAMS INTERUNIVERSITAIR INSTITUUT VOOR BIOTECHNOLOGIE VZW [BE/BE]; Rijvisschestraat 120, B-9052 Zwijnaarde (BE). <b>(72) Inventors; and</b> <b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> VAN DE CRAEN, Marc [BE/BE]; Gandastraat 39, B-9000 Gent (BE). DECLERCQ, Wim [BE/BE]; Pieter Casierstraat 7, B-8510 Marke (BE). VANDENABEELE, Peter [BE/BE]; Nijverheidstraat 18, B-9040 Sint-Amandsberg (BE). FIERS, Walter [BE/BE]; Beukendreef 3, B-9070 Destelbergen (BE). <b>(74) Common Representative:</b> VLAAMS INTERUNIVERSITAIR INSTITUUT VOOR BIOTECHNOLOGIE VZW; Rijvisschestraat 120, B-9052 Zwijnaarde (BE).	<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	
<b>(54) Title:</b> NEW CASPASE HOMOLOGUE		
<b>(57) Abstract</b>  <p>Caspases are cysteinyl aspartate-specific proteinases, many of which play a central role in apoptosis. This invention relates to the identification of a new murine caspase and its human homologue. The new molecules are most related to human/murine caspase-2 and human caspase-9 and possesses all the typical amino acid residues of the caspases involved in catalysis, including the QACRG box, and contains no or only a very short prodomain. Northern blot analysis revealed that mRNA expression of the new caspase is predominant in skin.</p>		