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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/EP00/04389 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 28 April 2000 (28.04.00) <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 99870093.4      30 April 1999 (30.04.99)      EP <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> VLAAMS INTERUNIVERSITAIR INSTITUUT VOOR BIOTECH- NOLOGIE VZW [BE/BE]; Rijvisschestraat 120, B-9052 Zwijnaarde (BE). <b>(72) Inventors; and</b> <b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> VAN ROY, Frans [BE/BE]; Bijlokestraat 43, B-9070 Destelbergen (BE). BONNE, Stefan [BE/BE]; Statiestraat 65, B-8720 Den- tergem (BE). <b>(74) Common Representative:</b> VLAAMS INTERUNIVERSITAIR INSTITUUT VOOR BIOTECHNOLOGIE VZW; Rijviss- chestraat 120, B-9052 Zwijnaarde (BE).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, 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, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, 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>Without international search report and to be republished            upon receipt of that report.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> MEANS AND METHODS FOR ALTERING THE FUNCTIONAL PROPERTIES IN EUKARYOTIC CELLS		
<b>(57) Abstract</b>		
<p>The present invention relates to the characterization of a novel, human catenin-like protein, denominated as plakophilin-3, which is present in desmosomes and nuclei of epithelial cells. The nucleic acids encoding said protein, the protein itself and antibodies against said protein can be used to diagnose and/or treat diseases, in particular skin diseases and wounds. Also the promoter sequence regulating plakophilin-3 gene expression and methods to modulate the regulatory function of said promoter are disclosed.</p>		