

# Increased Resistance of Peptides to Serum Proteases by Modification of their Amino Groups

Rossella Galati, Alessandra Verdina, Giuliana Falasca, and Alberto Chersi\*

Istituto Regina Elena for Cancer Research, Laboratory D (Biochemistry), Via delle Messi d'oro 156, 00158 Rome, Italy. Fax: 0039-06-5266-2505. E-mail: biochimica@ifo.it

\* Author for correspondence and reprint requests

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The ability of synthetic protein fragments to survive the degradative action of aminopeptidases and serum proteolytic enzymes can be remarkably enhanced by slight modifications at their N-terminal alpha-amino group. This can be achieved by addition of beta-alanine or amino acids of the D-configuration, amino acids which are seldom found in a living organism. These modifications do scarcely modify the chemical and physical properties of the peptides, and should be preferred, especially for *in vivo* tests, to drastic alterations of peptides as produced by dinitrophenylation or dansylation of the amino groups.

*Key words:* Peptides, Proteolytic Degradation, Modifications