

Obviously, the first two developments have built on each other and led to increased interest in the area as a whole. A major impact of these developments is that it is now possible to produce quantities of biologically active peptides that could be used for military purposes. This was not possible before 1980. Especially since 1986, many companies have established large-scale production facilities and advertise kilogram quantities of bioregulators. These include companies in Switzerland, Denmark, Canada and the United States, to mention a few.

Over the past five years, the significance of the third development stated above has become more evident. Given the pace of research, concern has emerged about the potential for abuse of these novel peptides. Bioregulators are thought by some to be especially important, since it is said they could be used as incapacitating weapons.

Another important factor is the possibility of making derivatives of the biologically active peptides. Chemical synthesis techniques allow selective modification of the peptides. Published research on bioregulators has shown that it is possible to make modifications which significantly increase the activity of the peptide. This would decrease the dose necessary for the biological effect. As well, the duration of action of the bioregulator can be modified by changing its rate of degradation. Because bioregulators have many different sites of action, this gives rise to the possibility of selectively affecting mental processes and many