To the Editor:

Proteinase 3 (PR-3) has been recently identified as the target antigen of the Wegener's granulomatosis. The revised PR-3 sequence suggested that this serine protease is identical to AGP7 and to p29. Recently, Jenne et al and Gupta et al have proposed that PR-3, p29, and AGP7 are similar to myeloblastin (mbn), which has been identified in HL-60 human leukemic cells, and is involved in the control of growth and differentiation of human leukemic cells. Because most autoantibodies against PR-3 interfere with its enzymatic function, Jenne et al have proposed that fulminans Wegener's granulomatosis could be the result of enhanced granulocyte differentiation. Using HL-60 cells, we have achieved anchored polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification, cloning and sequencing of the missing 5' end nucleotide sequence of PR-3. The sequence presented in Fig 1 extends 5' upstream the previously published mbn sequence and contains a putative initiation codon surrounded by a ribosomal binding site consensus as underlined.

![Fig 1. 5' terminal nucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of PR-3 anchored-PCR amplified cDNA.](image-url)
The PR-3-specific oligodeoxynucleotide probe used for northern blot hybridization was: 5'-d(TGGGGGCCCAGTGCAGCCAT-3').

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