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The contents of all references cited herein are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

What is claimed is:

1. A method protecting cells in a subject from a DNA damaging agent, the method comprising:  
starving the subject for 24-60 hours to induce differential stress resistance in the subject; and

- administering to the DNA damaging agent to the subject.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is starved for 48 hours.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein glucose level is reduced by 25 to 45 percent as compared to the glucose level prior to starving of the subject.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein IGF-I level in the subject is reduced as compared to the IGF-I level prior to starving of the subject.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA damaging agent is a DNA alkylating agent.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA damaging agent is methyl methanesulfonate or menadione.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA damaging agent is methyl methanesulfonate, cyclophosphamide, etoposide or doxorubicin.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA damaging agent is etoposide or doxorubicin.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is a cancer patient.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is a prostate cancer patient.
11. The method of claim 1, further comprising administering to the subject a cell growth inhibitor.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the cell growth inhibitor inhibits GH signaling in the subject.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the cell growth inhibitor is an IGFBP-1.
14. A method of protecting a cell from a DNA damaging agent, the method comprising:  
starving the cell for 24-60 to induce differential stress resistance; and  
contacting the cell with the DNA damaging agent.
15. The method of claim 14, further comprising contacting the cell with a cell growth inhibitor.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the cell growth inhibitor is an IGFBP-1.
17. The method of claim 14, wherein the DNA damaging agent is a DNA alkylating agent.
18. The method of claim 14, wherein the DNA damaging agent is methyl methanesulfonate or menadione.
19. The method of claim 14, wherein the DNA damaging agent is methyl methanesulfonate, cyclophosphamide, etoposide or doxorubicin.
20. The method of claim 14, wherein the DNA damaging agent is etoposide or doxorubicin.
21. A method protecting cells in a subject from a DNA damaging agent, the method comprising:  
starving the subject with cancer for 24-60 hours to induce differential stress resistance in the subject;  
administering to the DNA damaging agent to the subject;  
and  
monitoring the toxicity of the DNA damaging agent in the subject.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein toxicity of the DNA damaging agent is monitored by measuring LDH levels.
23. The method of claim 21, wherein toxicity of the DNA damaging agent is monitored by measuring weight loss in the subject.

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