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ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

α	alpha
β	beta
γ	gamma
%	percentage
>	is greater than
<	is less than
°	degree
°C	degree Celcius
μg	microgram
μl	microliter
μm	micrometer
μM	micromolar
ACTH	adrenocorticotropic hormone
ATPase	adenosine triphosphate
Brij72	polyethylene-2-stearyl ether
C	carbon
cAMP	cyclic adenosine monophosphate
CO_2	carbon dioxide
cm	centimeter
cm^2	square centimeter

CMC	carboxy methyl cellulose
CREB	cAMP responsive element binding protein
d	day
DDAB	dimethyl dioctadecyl ammonium bromide
DHI	5,6-dihydroxyindole
DHICA	5,6-dihydroxy carboxylic acid
DLS	dynamic light scattering
DMEM	Dulbecco's modified eagle medium
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DP	Dicetyl phosphate
EDTA	ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
FBS	fetal bovine serum
FTIR	Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy
g	gram
GC/MS	gas chromatography-mass spectrometry
h	hour
H^+	proton
HF	hair follicle
HLB	hydrophilic-lipophilic balance
HPLC	high performance liquid chromatography
HPMC	hydroxyl propyl methyl cellulose
kDa	kilodalton
kg	kilogram
IR	infrared

L-	levo form
LA	lauric acid
LM	lauric acid methyl ester
Log K*o/w*	partition coefficient value
LUV	large unilamellar vesicles
m	meter
MC1	melanocortin 1 receptor
min	minute
mg	milligram
ml	milliliter
mm	millimeter
mM	millimolar
mRNA	messenger ribonucleic acid
mV	millivolt
MA	myristic actid
MAPK	mitogen-activated protein kinase
MITF	microphthalmia-associated transcription factor
MLV	multilamellar vesicles
MM	myristic acid methyl ester, methyl myristate
MSH	melanocyte-stimulating hormone
MTT	3-(4,5-dimethyl thiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide
MW	molecular weight
n-	straight-chain, unbranched isomer
nm	nanometer

OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
p-	para
PA	palmitic acid
PBS	phosphate buffer saline
PII	primary irritation index
POMC	proopiomelanocortin
PM	palmitic acid methyl ester
psi	pounds per square inch
RH	relative humidity
rpm	revolutions per minute
s	second
SA	stearic acid
S.E.	standard error of mean
SM	stearic acid methyl ester
SRB	sulforhodamine B
SUV	small unilamellar vesicles
TEM	transmission electron microscope
TYR	tyrosinase
TRP-1	tyrosinase-related protein-1
TRP-2	tyrosinase-related protein-2
UV	ultraviolet
v/v	volume by volume
w/v	weight by volume
w/w	weight by weight