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(54) Title: COSMETIC AND COSMECEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS FOR RESTORATION OF SKIN BARRIER FUNCTION

(57) Abstract: Compositions, kits and methods are provided for restoring skin barrier function to skin exposed to environmental elements and/or in a pathological condition. In general, divalent cations such as calcium ions and/or magnesium ions are included in a physiologically acceptable medium. In some embodiments, divalent cations are balanced with monovalent cations such as sodium and potassium ions at appropriate ratios in order to maintain the homeostasis of skin barrier. The compositions, kits and methods can be used as cosmetics, cosmeceuticals or pharmaceuticals for improving skin condition, and preventing or treating dermatological diseases and skin disorders.

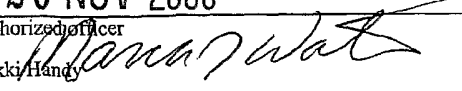


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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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<p>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category *</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>US 4,943,432 A (BIENER) 24 JULY 1990, SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.</td> <td>1-4, 6-10, 12, 14, 22, 23, 28-31, 34-38, 41, AND 42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 5,653,970 A (VERMEER) 05 AUGUST 1997, SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.</td> <td>5, 11, 13, 15-21, 24-27, 32, 33, 39, AND 40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 5,955,067 A (OGE ET AL.), 21 SEPTEMBER 1999, SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.</td> <td>5, 11, 13, 15-21, 24-27, 32, 33, 39, AND 40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X	US 4,943,432 A (BIENER) 24 JULY 1990, SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-4, 6-10, 12, 14, 22, 23, 28-31, 34-38, 41, AND 42	Y	US 5,653,970 A (VERMEER) 05 AUGUST 1997, SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	5, 11, 13, 15-21, 24-27, 32, 33, 39, AND 40	Y	US 5,955,067 A (OGE ET AL.), 21 SEPTEMBER 1999, SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	5, 11, 13, 15-21, 24-27, 32, 33, 39, AND 40
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<p>Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201</p>		<p>Authorized officer  Nikki Handy Telephone No. (571) 272-9923</p>												