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(54) Title: PLURIPOTENT STEM CELLS CHARACTERIZED BY EXPRESSION OF GERMLINE SPECIFIC GENES

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to pluripotent or multipotent somatic stem cells characterized by the expression of the germline specific gene, DAZL. The somatic stem cells expressing the DAZL marker are further characterized by expression of additional markers and absence of expression of certain blood markers. In particular, the present invention discloses therapeutic and diagnostic uses, other than the germ cell potential use, of the DAZL pluripotent or multipotent stem cells isolated from adult or peripheral somatic sources such as peripheral blood, bone marrow or umbilical cord blood.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC: G01N 33/567(2006.01);C12N 5/10(2006.01)

USPC: 435/7.21,366
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 435/7.21, 366

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	Reijo et al, Biology of Reproduction, DAZ family proteins exist throughout male germ cell development and transit from nucleus to cytoplasm at meiosis in humans and mice, 2000, Vol. 63, pages 1490-1496.	1-16
Y	Rooij et al, Reproduction, Proliferation and differentiation of spermatogonial stem cells, 2001, Vol. 121, pages 347-354.	1-16
A	Cauffman et al, Molecular Human Reptroduction, DAZL expression in human oocytes, preimplantation embryos and embryonic stem cells, 2005, Vol. 11, No. 6, pages 405-411.	1-34
Y	Clark et al, Human Molecular Genetics, Spontaneous differentiation of germ cells from human embryonic stem cell in vitro, 2004, Vol. 13, No. 7, pages 727-739.	1-16

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