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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY** [US/US]; 1805 NDSU Research Park Drive, Fargo, ND 58102 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **STAFSLIEN, Shane, J.** [US/US]; c/o North Dakota State University, 1805 NDSU Research Park Drive, Fargo, ND 58102 (US). **BAHR, James, Allen** [US/US]; c/o North Dakota State University, 1805 NDSU Research Park Drive, Fargo, ND 58102 (US).

(74) Agents: **FAIRBAIRN, David, R.** et al.; Kinney & Lange, PA, Kinney & Lange Building, 312 South Third Street, Minneapolis, ND 55415-1002 (US).

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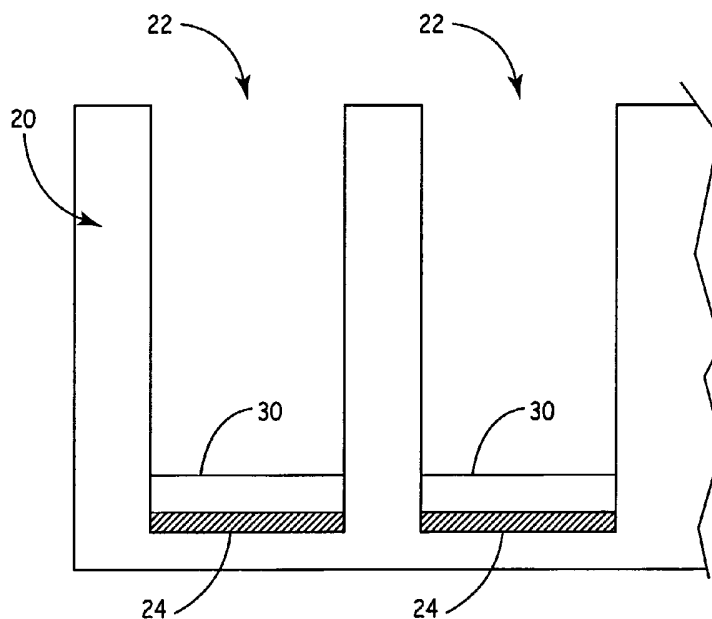
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: LINED MULTI-WELL PLATES



(57) Abstract: A multi-well plate (20) includes a plurality of wells (22), and each well has a base and one or more side walls. A liner (30) is located adjacent the base of at least one of the plurality of wells. A method for forming a multi-well plate system includes providing a multi-well plate and applying a liner to a well of the multi-well plate.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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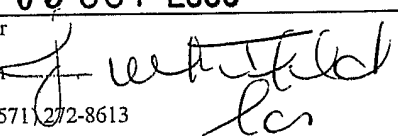
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/21542

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC: C12M 1/34(2006.01),3/00(2006.01) USPC: 435/288.4 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. : 435/288.4,287.2,305.1,305.2,283.1,288.3,303.1; 422/99,102 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.
X	US 6,309,605 B1 (ZERMANI, THOMAS) 30 October 2001 (30.10.2001), column 2, lines 17-54 and column 3, line 66 to column 4, line 44	1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 19, 20
X	US 2004/0071605 A1 (COONAN et al) 15 April 2004 (15.04.2004), paragraphs [0005], [0021] and [0022]	1-5, 8, 9, 13
X	US 2003/0040031 A1 (KIM et al) 27 February 2003 (27.02.2003), paragraphs [0182]-[0184], [0024], [0137], [0142]	1-3, 8, 9, 13
X	US 5,329,123 (OIKARI et al) 12 July 1994 (12.07.1994), column 3, lines 7-43	1, 2, 9, 13
☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents:		
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
Date of the actual completion of the international search 24 August 2006 (24.08.2006)		Date of mailing of the international search report 05 OCT 2006
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		Authorized officer Gladys Corcoran  Telephone No. (571) 272-8613

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/21542

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

- Remark on Protest**
- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ☐ | The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee. |
| ☐ | The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation. |
| ☐ | No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees. |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US05/21542

BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-8 and 13-20, drawn to a multi-well plate comprising a liner.

Group II, claim(s) 9-12, drawn to a method of forming a multi-well plate comprising a liner.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the Groups are not linked by a special technical feature. Even though Groups I and II both disclose a multi-well plate comprising a liner disposed within at least one of the plurality of wells, it is believed that this common limitation does not represent a special technical feature. Special technical features are structures that define the invention over the prior art, and the use of a multi-well plate comprising a liner is known in the art. This is made apparent after consideration of the Kim (US 20030040031), Oikari (US 5329123), Coonan (US 20040071605) and Zermani (US 6309605) references.