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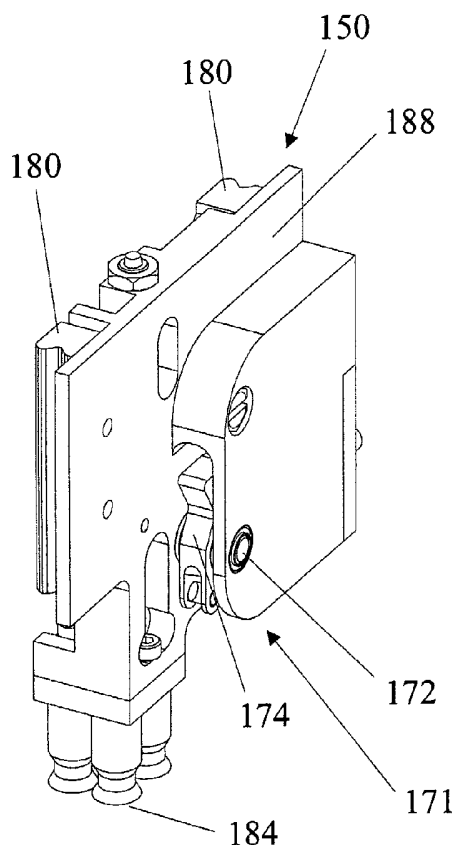
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- (71) Applicant: **INCYTE GENOMICS, INC.** [US/US]; 3160 Porter Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94304 (US).
- (72) Inventors: **BEVIRT, JoeBen**; 678 Oak Parkway, Emerald Hills, CA 94062 (US). **ROLLINS, Eric, J.**; 162 Wall Street, Sonoma, CA 95370 (US).
- (74) Agent: **DUFFEY, Gregg, A.**; Howrey Simon Arnold & White, LLP, 750 Bering Drive, Houston, TX 77057-2198 (US).
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(54) Title: MICROARRAY PLACER UNIT



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a placer unit (150) for a microarray processing device to transport a workpiece such as a microscope slide (32) before and after processing operations by the microarray processing device. The processing device is slidably attached to a gantry (166) and has a support carriage and a movable arm. The movable arm is slidably attached to the support carriage. The placer unit includes a main support body (188), a latching mechanism (171) and a vacuum chuck (184). The main support body is mounted on the support carriage and allowed to translate up and down. The latching mechanism enables the main support body to couple with the movable arm of the processing device. The vacuum chuck (184) is used to hold the workpiece for transportation. The present invention also includes a method within a microarray processing machine for transporting a workpiece such as a microscope slide (32) from one workstation to another workstation.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98 41531 A (UNIV WASHINGTON ; BLANCHARD ALAN P (US)) 24 September 1998 (1998-09-24)	1, 2, 13, 14
A	page 56, line 24 -page 61, line 32; figure 5 page 71, line 3 - line 23 page 73, line 3 - line 16; figures 5-10 page 61, line 7 - line 11 ---	19
A	FR 2 630 216 A (IBAL) 20 October 1989 (1989-10-20) page 2, line 25 - line 32 page 10, line 25 -page 11, line 10; figures 1,4,5 --- -/--	3, 5, 19



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Hocquet, A

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A	WO 99 49295 A (ZHANG JASON Z ;BIOGENEX LAB (US); CHANG ZHI WENG (US); KALRA KRISH) 30 September 1999 (1999-09-30) page 14, line 27 -page 15, line 18; figures 1-10 page 27, line 5 - line 22; figures 1-10,17 -----	3,5

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Information on patent family members

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