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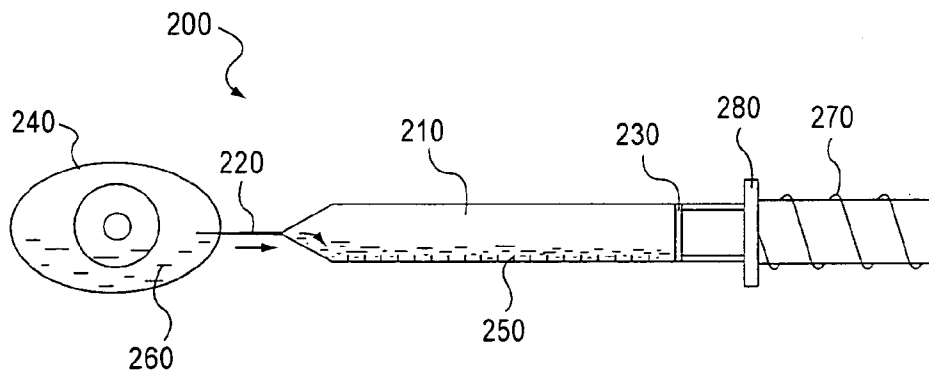


FIG. 3

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the analysis and monitoring of ocular fluids for determining the physiological state of an organism, to monitor drug efficacy and dynamics, for early disease detection, as well as to certain molecular markers and fingerprints of identified molecules or molecule fragments in such analysis. An ophthalmic aspirating device is provided that allows the relatively non-invasive removal of small volumes of ocular vitreous fluid for diagnostic and other purposes.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2008/007527

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC(8) - C12Q 1/48 (2008.04) USPC - 435/15 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b> Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC(8) - C12Q 1/48 (2008.04) USPC - 435/15 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) PatBase		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ----- Y	US 6,520,955 B2 (REYNARD) 18 February 2003 (18.02.2003) entire document	20-21 ----- 1-6, 11-14
Y	US 2006/0189608 A1 (BINGAMAN) 24 August 2006 (24.08.2006) entire document	1-6, 11-14
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/>		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "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) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "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 "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 "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 "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 26 November 2008		Date of mailing of the international search report <b>08 DEC 2008</b>
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: Blaine R. Copenheaver PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2008/007527

**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.: 7-10, 15-19  
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:  
Group I, claims 1-21, drawn to a non-surgical method of predicting or monitoring the physiological state of the eye

Group II, claims 22-27, drawn to an ophthalmic aspirating device

Group III, claims 28-42 drawn to a vitreous fluid analysis kit and method of remote vitreous fluid analysis

Group IV, claims 43-44, drawn to a proteomic fingerprint

Group V, claims 45-50, drawn to a method of identifying biomarkers of an ocular condition

- 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 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.:  
1-21

**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.