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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6:

C12N 15/40, C07K 14/18, C12Q 1/70,
C07K 16/10, A61K 39/29

(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/04008

(43) International Publication Date: 28 January 1999 (28.01.99)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/14688

(22) International Filing Date: 16 July 1998 (16.07.98)

(30) Priority Data:

60/053,062 18 July 1997 (18.07.97) US 09/014,416 27 January 1998 (27.01.98) US

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(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published

With international search report.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

1 April 1999 (01.04.99)

(54) Title: CLONED GENOMES OF INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS C VIRUSES AND USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract

The present invention discloses nucleic acid sequences which encode infectious hepatitis C viruses and the use of these sequences, and polypeptides encoded by all or part of these sequences, in the development of vaccines and diagnostics for HCV and in the development of screening assays for the identification of antiviral agents for HCV.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 C12N15/40 C07 C12Q1/70 C07K16/10 A61K39/29 C07K14/18 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) C12N C07K C12Q A61K 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 practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. YOO B J ET AL: "Transfection of a X 1,13-24,differentiated human hepatoma cell line 33 - 35, 42,43 (Huh7) with in vitro-transcribed hepatitis C virus (HCV) RNA and establishment of a long-term culture persistently infected with HCV" JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY, vol. 69, no. 1, January 1995, pages 32-38, XP002022696 AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY US see the whole document Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. ° Special categories of cited documents : 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 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to 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) 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 docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but "&" document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 12 January 1999 22/01/1999 Authorized officer 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 ni, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Cupido, M

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	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	WO 98 39031 A (UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON; KOLYKHALOV A; RICE C) 11 September 1998 see SEQ ID NO:1, representing a HCV H77 consensus sequence having 99.6% identity with the nucleic acid sequences in figures 4A-4F of the present application.	1,4,5, 13-24, 33-43
X	EP 0 516 270 A (JAPAN IMMUNO INC) 2 December 1992 see the whole document	23,24, 40,41
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P,X	YANAGI M ET AL: "Transcripts of a chimeric cDNA clone of hepatitis C virus genotype 1b are infectious in vivo" VIROLOGY, vol. 244, no. 1, 25 April 1998, pages 161-172, XPO02089701 ORLANDO US see the whole document	1,6-10, 13-24, 33-43

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Box i	Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This Inte	rnational Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. X	Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: Remark: Although claim(s) 41 and 43 is(are) directed to a method of treatment of the animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the composition.
2. X	Claims Nos.: 29 and 30 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: The scope of claims 29 and 30 is so unclear and not well specified that a meaningful search was not possible
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 II	Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This Inte	rnational Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
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 an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
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	The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Information on patent family members

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