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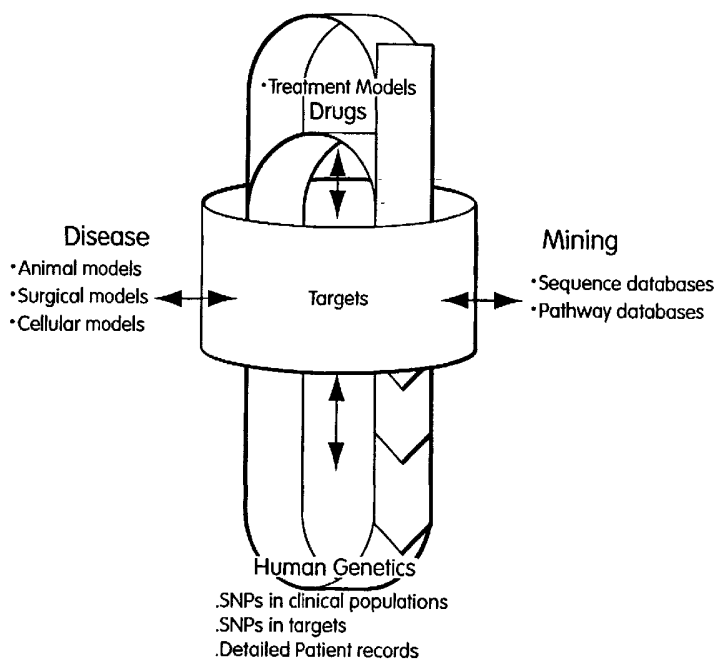
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING NOVEL THERAPEUTIC AGENTS



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method for identifying a therapeutic agent. The method includes detecting a nucleic acid in a test sample, e.g. cells, cell lines or tissue, which contains a plurality of nucleic acid species, determining if the detected nucleic acid contributes to a disease state and is thus a qualified therapeutic target, and establishing if the qualified therapeutic target plays a role in disease progress and is thus a verified therapeutic candidate that can function as a therapeutic agent.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C12Q1/68 G01N33/53 G06F19/00

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)
IPC 7 C12Q

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, EMBASE, MEDLINE, BIOSIS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 28 February 2003	Date of mailing of the international search report 14/03/2003
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 Aguilera, M

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