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(71) Applicant: QCDX LLC [US/US]; 400 Farmington Avenue R1809, Farmington, CT 06032 (US).

(72) Inventors: TAFAS, Triantafyllos P.; 9 Clemens Court, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 (US). WINFREE, Seth; 5755 Chazimal Street, Plainfield, IN 46168 (US). REED, Scott, W.; 23 Griswold Lane, Winchester, CT 06098 (US).

(74) Agent: SABATELLI, Anthony D.; Wiggin & Dana LLP, One Century Tower, 265 Church Street, New Haven, CT 06510 (US).

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(54) Title: BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE HOLDER AND HANDLER

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a biological sample holder and handler system for cell-based liquid biopsies. The system is useful for performing diagnostic assays, based on a simple blood sample. For example, the system is useful for delivering precision cancer diagnoses that improve patient outcomes by optimizing treatment options, monitoring therapy efficacy, characterizing metastasis and assessing treatment toxicity



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
INV.	B01L9/06 G01N33/49	B01L3/00 B01L3/02 G01N21/01 G01N21/63
ADD.		
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) B01L G01N		
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) EPO-Internal, WPI Data		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2002/148728 A1 (KUMAR AMIT [US] ET AL) 17 October 2002 (2002-10-17) paragraphs [0079] - [0080], [0141], [0144] - [0146], [0200]; figures 3A-E, 4-6	1-20
A	----- WO 01/21310 A2 (GENOME THERAPEUTICS CORP [US]; CAHILL PATRICK [US] ET AL.) 29 March 2001 (2001-03-29) page 14, line 11 - line 16; figures 2-6	8,9
A	----- US 5 785 926 A (SEUBERT RONALD [US] ET AL) 28 July 1998 (1998-07-28) column 6, line 62 - column 9, line 36; figures 3-6, 11	1,8,9
A	----- US 6 033 880 A (HAFF LAWRENCE A [US] ET AL) 7 March 2000 (2000-03-07) column 25, line 42 - column 46, line 14 -----	8,9
☐ 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 "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 13 November 2019		Date of mailing of the international search report 30/01/2020
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Ruiz-Echarri Rueda

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2019/039244

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:

see additional 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 an 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.:

1-20

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.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-20

Apparatus for characterizing or quantitating particles in a biological sample.

2. claims: 21-37

Method for characterizing and quantitating target cells in a blood sample.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2019/039244

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