

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
4 December 2003 (04.12.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2003/100014 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C12Q 1/68**,
C12P 19/34

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/016466

(22) International Filing Date: 23 May 2003 (23.05.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/382,954 24 May 2002 (24.05.2002) US
60/384,433 31 May 2002 (31.05.2002) US

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AU, BA, BB,
BR, BZ, CA, CN, CO, CR, CU, DM, DZ, EC, GD, GE, HR,
HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KP, KR, LC, LK, LR, LT, LV, MA,
MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, RO, SC, SG,
TN, TT, UA, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
3 June 2004

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD FOR QUANTITATING NEGATIVE STRAND RNA SYNTHESIS

(57) Abstract: The invention provides methods for identifying inhibitors of the synthesis of the negative strand of the HCV poly-
merase.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/16466

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C12Q 1/68; C12P 19/34

US CL : 435/6, 91.1, 91.2, 91.3, 91.32, 91.33; 536/23.1, 24.3, 24.32

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)

U.S. : 435/6, 91.1, 91.2, 91.3, 91.32, 91.33; 536/23.1, 24.3, 24.32

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)
WEST, PubMed, GeneBank, EMBL, EST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	LERAT H. et al., Specific Detection of Hepatitis C Virus Minus Strand RNA in Hematopoietic Cells, J. Clin. Invest., February 1996, Vol. 97, pp. 845-851; see page 846, Table 1, Fig. 1 and 2	1-4
Y	CRAGGS J.K. et al., Development of strand-specific RT-PCR based assay to detect the replicative form of hepatitis C virus RNA, J. Virol. Methods, May 2001, vol. 94, pp. 111-120; see page 113, Fig. 1, 2, 4; page 115, 117, 118	1-4
Y	MORRIS T. et al., Rapid Reverse Transcription-PCR Detection of Hepatitis C Virus RNA in Serum by Using the TaqMan Fluorogenic Detection System, J. Clin. Microbiol., December 1996, Vol. 34, pp. 2933-2936; see Fig. 1; page 2934, 2935	1-4
Y	US 5,968,775 A (HOUGHTON et al.) 19 October 1999; col. 3, lines 16-37; col. 15, lines 23-52; col. 20, lines 15-53	2-4



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 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

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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

11 December 2003 (11.12.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report

30 MAR 2004

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

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/16466

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim 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. ☒ Claim Nos.: 5
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 International 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 on Protest

☐
☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.