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[Continued on next page]

#### (54) Title: TAILORED POLYMERS

Mix water soluble non-reactive plasticiser + polymer, orientate mixture to form orientated material with Tg above 37°C.



Place orientated material in aqueous fluid (37°C) resulting in orientated material with a Tg below body temperature



Orientated material releases stress resulting in the material changing shape



Water soluble non -reactive plasticiser diffuses from polymer, without causing detrimental loss in strength retention, resulting in the polymer becoming stiffer.



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to shape memory polymers (SMP) and especially to shape memory polymer containing a water soluble non-reactive plasticiser and to uses thereof.





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#### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/GB2012/052480

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. A61L31/06 A61L31/12 A61B17/04 A61L31/14 A61B17/86 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) A61L A61B 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, BIOSIS, EMBASE, INSPEC, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category\* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages χ US 2010/198257 A1 (COHEN M D; HADBA A R; 1-9, HODGKINSON G; STOPEK J) 12-23, 5 August 2010 (2010-08-05) 30-34. 36-39, 46 - 57paragraphs [0002], [0019], [0043] claims 1,11,12 Α WO 2008/131197 A1 (SMITH & NEPHEW INC 1-9, [US]; BROWN MALCOLM [GB]; HALL MICHAEL 12-23, [GB]; MONTES) 30 October 2008 (2008-10-30) 30-34. 36-39. 46-57 paragraphs [0003] - [0008], [0022], [0026], [0027] X I Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex. Special categories of cited documents: "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 "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 "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive 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) 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 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other being obvious to a person skilled in the art "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 7 March 2013 31/05/2013 Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Cadamuro, Sergio

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## **INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

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
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.:  6-9, 30, 46(completely); 1-5, 12-23, 31-34, 36-39, 47-57(partially)
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: 6-9, 30, 46(completely); 1-5, 12-23, 31-34, 36-39, 47-57(partially)

A biodegradable polymer composition that is a shape memory polymer composition comprising a polymer and a water soluble plasticiser wherein (i) the plasticiser and polymer are miscible; and (ii) where on placing the polymer composition in an aqueous medium results in the polymer softening and deforming where after it hardens. The polymer composition comprises a polylactic acid containing L- and D,L-lactide.

2. claims: 10, 11, 35(completely); 1-4, 12-21, 23, 31-33, 36-39, 47-57(partially)

A non-biodegradable polymer composition that is a shape memory polymer composition comprising a polymer and a water soluble plasticiser wherein (i) the plasticiser and polymer are miscible; and (ii) where on placing the polymer composition in an aqueous medium results in the polymer softening and deforming where after it hardens.

3. claims: 1-5, 12-23, 31-34, 36-39, 47-57(all partially)

A biodegradable polymer composition that is a shape memory polymer composition comprising a polymer and a water soluble plasticiser wherein (i) the plasticiser and polymer are miscible; and (ii) where on placing the polymer composition in an aqueous medium results in the polymer softening and deforming where after it hardens. The polymer composition comprises a polyglicolide.

4. claims: 24-29, 40-45(completely); 1-4, 12-21, 23, 31-33, 36-39, 47-57(partially)

A polymer composition that is a shape memory polymer composition comprising a polymer and a water soluble plasticiser wherein (i) the plasticiser and polymer are miscible; and (ii) where on placing the polymer composition in an aqueous medium results in the polymer softening and deforming where after it hardens. The polymer composition comprises a filler.

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## **INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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