

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
13 December 2001 (13.12.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/95059 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: G01N 33/48, C12Q 1/10
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- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/18067
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (22) International Filing Date: 4 June 2001 (04.06.2001)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/209,876 6 June 2000 (06.06.2000) US
09/705,337 2 November 2000 (02.11.2000) US
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, 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, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
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- Published:
— with international search report
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- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:
28 March 2002
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*



WO 01/95059 A3

(54) Title: A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR POPULATING A DATABASE

(57) Abstract: Systems and methods for populating a secured database for further medical characterization through a worldwide network of computers. The method includes providing a server 207 coupled with a worldwide network of computers 210, and providing a website configured to create trust of the website by users. The method also includes providing medical questionnaires on the website to obtain information from a user, and analyzing the information obtained from the user to determine whether to invite the user to submit a biological tissue sample. The method further includes inviting a user 201 to submit a biological tissue sample, and transmitting from the server to the user instructions for submitting a biological tissue sample. The method additionally includes receiving a biological tissue sample from the user, and analyzing the biological tissue sample to obtain genetic information. The method still further includes populating the secured database with the genetic information 215.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/18067

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC(7) : G01N 33/48; C12Q 1/100
 US CL : 702/19,22; 435/4
 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. : 702/19,22; 435/4

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)
 Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, P	COHEN, O. et al. HC Forum(R): A Web Site Based on an International Human Cytogenetic Database. Nucleic Acids Research, 2001, Vol. 29, No. 1, pages 305-307. See entire document.	1-12
X	US 5,966,712 A (SABATINI et al) 12 October 1999 (12.10.1999) see entire document.	1-8 and 11-12
Y	COOPER, D.N. et al. The Human Gene Mutation Database. Nucleic Acids Research, 1998, Vol. 26, No. 1, pages 285-287. See entire document.	9-10
Y	GARVIN, A.M. et al. Highly Accurate Analysis of Heterozygous Loci by Single Cell PCR. Nucleic Acids Research, 1998, Vol. 26, No. 15, pages 3468-3472. See entire document.	9-10

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	"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
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"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	

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 30 July 2001 (30.07.2001)
 Date of mailing of the international search report: 13 DEC 2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box PCT, Washington, D.C. 20231, Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230
 Authorized officer: Monika B. Sheinberg, Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/18067

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.:
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:
Please See Continuation 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 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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/18067

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid

Group I, claim(s) 1-8 and 11-12, drawn to a database population.

Group II, claim(s) 9-10, drawn to prenatal diagnosis of a fetus.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II, do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical feature of Group I is the population of a database inclusive of the computer system to support it, and the programs to run it; while the special technical special feature of Group II is the prenatal examination for diagnosis of a fetus.

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

WEST, Electronic Journals

search terms: database, population, prenatal, diagnosis, fetus, genetic, family, clinical, sampling, user