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(54) Title: NUCLEIC ACID COMPOUNDS FOR INHIBITING FAS GENE EXPRESSION AND USES THEREOF

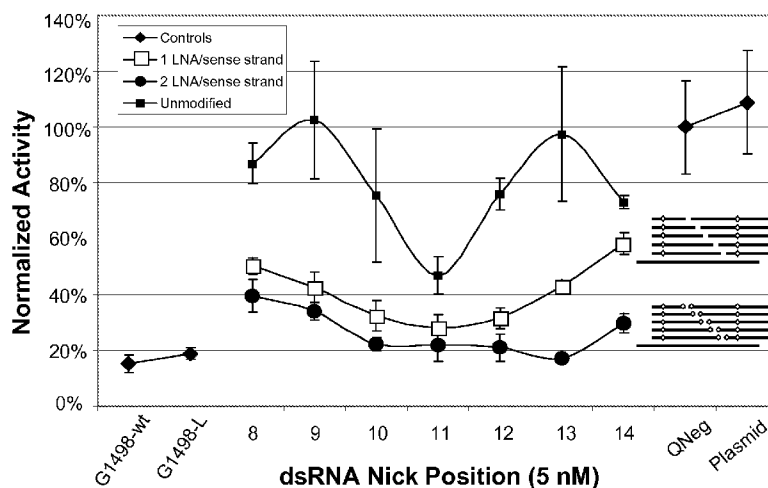


Fig. 9

(57) Abstract: The present disclosure provides meroduplex ribonucleic acid molecules (mdRNA) capable of decreasing or silencing FAS gene expression. An mdRNA of this disclosure comprises at least three strands that combine to form at least two non-overlapping double-stranded regions separated by a nick or gap wherein one strand is complementary to a FAS mRNA. In addition, the meroduplex may have at least one uridine substituted with a 5-methyluridine, a nucleoside replaced with a locked nucleic acid, or optionally other modifications, and any combination thereof. Also provided are methods of decreasing expression of a FAS gene in a cell or in a subject to treat a FAS-related disease.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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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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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

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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 Andres, Serge
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