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(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to improvements in targetted enzyme prodrug therapy including antibody-directed enzyme prodrug therapy (ADEPT), it particularly relates to novel enzymes and prodrugs for use in ADEPT.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT nal Application No PCT/GB 94/02483 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 A61K47/48 C12N9/64 C07K5/06 C07K5/02 C07D405/00 C07D403/12 C07D239/00 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) IPC 6-A61K-C12NDocumentation 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 practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ' Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y EP,A,O 423 818 (BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB 1-3,COMPANY) 24 April 1991 12-15, 25-29 see page 7, line 30 - line 31; claims X,Y WO, A, 90 07929 (AKZO) 26 July 1990 1-3, cited in the application 12-15, 25-29 see page 4, paragraph 3; claims 1-11 A PROTEIN ENGINEERING. 1-11. vol.6, no.4, 1993, ENGLAND GB 16-19, pages 409 - 415 27,29-38 OLESEN K. ET AL. 'ALTERING SUBSTRATE PREFERENCE OF CARBOXYPEPTIDASE Y BY A NOVEL STRATEGY OF MUTAGENESIS ELIMINATING WILD TYPE BACKGROUND.' see page 409; table 1 -/--

| Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. | Patent family members are listed in annex. |
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| Date of the actual completion of the international search 9 March 1995 | Date of mailing of the international search report $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{4}{3} \frac{2}{3} \frac{2}{3}$ |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 | Authorized officer BERTE, M |

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inten nal Application No
PCT/GB 94/02483

| Category ° | citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
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| A | WO,A,93 13806 (BAGSHAWE, KENNETH, DAWSON) 22 July 1993 see page 10, line 11 - line 22 see page 19, line 5 - page 22, line 4 see page 24, line 10 - line 17; claims 1,12-17; examples 1,3,5 | 1-19, 25-38 |
| A | WO,A,89 10140 (CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN TECHNOLOGY LTD.) 2 November 1989 cited in the application see page 7, line 14 - page 8, line 3 see page 13, line 8 - line 15; examples see page 4, line 11 - line 16; claims 1,17 | 1-19, 25-38 |
| A | WO,A,88 07378 (CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN TECHNOLOGY LTD.) 6 October 1988 cited in the application see page 6 see page 7, line 7 - line 9 see page 9, line 1 - line 8; claims | 1-19, 25-38 |
| A | EP,A,O 382 411 (ELI LILLY AND COMPANY) 16 August 1990 see page 5, line 41 - line 54; claims 1,2 | 1-19, 25-38 |
| E | EP,A,O 633 029 (CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN TECHNOLOGY LTD.) 11 January 1995 see page 3, line 9 - line 16; claims see page 5, line 1 - line 16 | 1-19, 25-38 |
| A | BIOCHEMISTRY, vol.28, 1989, EASTON, PA US pages 2288 - 2297 ULRIKE KUEFNER ET AL. 'CARBOXYPEPTIDASE-MEDIATED RELEASE OF METHOTREXATE FROM METHOTREXATE ALPHA-PEPTIDES.' cited in the application see page 2296, column 1 see page 2293, column 2 | 1-7 |
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter onal application No.

PCT/GB94/02483

| Box I | Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet) |
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| This inte | ernational 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. X | 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: PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SHEET! |
| 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 II | Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet) |
| | ernational 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 searches 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.: |
| | 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.: 1-19,27-38; 25-26 partially |
| Remark o | The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees. |

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/210

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

- 1. Claims: 1-19,27-38, and partially 25-26
 a mutant mammalian enzyme; a conjugate; a DNA
 or RNA molecule encoding such a conjugate or
 encoding a mutant enzyme; a vector containing
 such DNA or RNA; a cell line containing the
 DNA or RNA or vector; a method of targetted
 chemotherapy using such a conjugate; the use
 of a prodrug in relation to such a conjugate
- 2. Claims: 20-24 and partially 25-26
 (as far as not comprised in claims 1-19 and 27-38): a compound of general formula II, representing prodrugs; the use of a compound of formula II or a conjugate thereof in medical therapy.

Rule 13.1 PCT deals with the requirement of unity of invention and states the principle that an international application should relate to only one invention or, if there is more than one invention, that the inclusion of those inventions in one international application is only permitted if all inventions are so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. Rule 13.2 PCT defines the method for determining whether the requirement of unity of invention is satisfied in respect of a group of inventions claimed in an international application.

Unity of invention exists only when there is a technical relationship among the claimed inventions involving one or more of the same of corresponding "special technical features."

The expression "special technical features" is defined in Rule 13.2 as meaning those technical features that define a contribution which each of the inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

The problem underlying the present application is to provide a prodrug which is stable in vivo and yet activated by a non-immunogenic enzyme (see description, page 3, lines 6-7). The solution proposed in the present application is to use a mutant mammalian enzyme conjugated to a targetting molecule, capable to catalyse the transformation of the prodrug to its active form, whereas the prodrug is refractory to endogenous catalysis by the wild form of the enzyme.

The claims of the present application relate to:

a. a mutant mammalian enzyme (claims 29-35); a conjugate, according to claims 1-16; a DNA or RNA molecule encoding such a conjugate (claim 17) or encoding a mutant enzyme (claim 36); a vector containing such DNA or RNA (claims 18, 37); a cell line containing the DNA or RNA or vector

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/210

(claim 19,38); a method of targetted chemotherapy using such a conjugate (claim 27); the use of a prodrug in relation to such a conjugate (claim 28); the use of such a conjugate, cell line, vector or DNA or RNA in medical therapy (claims 25-26, partially);

b. a compound of general formula II, representing prodrugs (claims 20-24); the use of a compound of formula II or a conjugate thereof in medical therapy (claims 25-26, partially).

The special technical feature linking the subject matters comprised under a. is the mutant mammalian enzyme. There is no limitation as to the nature of the conjugate in claims 25-26.

Accordingly, the compounds of formula II may be used in conjunction with any conjugate.

Moreover, the compounds of formula II may be used independently from a conjugate.

Consequently, the prodrugs of formula II cannot be considered as specifically adapted for use in conjunction with the mutant mammalian enzyme.

The subject matter of claims 1-16 (and the other claims referred to under a.), is not restricted to conjugates comprising a prodrug of formula II, but encompasses conjugates of a mutant enzyme and any prodrug.

The special technical feature common to the subject matters comprised under b. is to be seen in the structural features of the (specific) prodrugs of formula II.

These prodrugs may optionally be used as a conjugate thereof (not restricted in any respect), the conjugate only optionally being a conjugate according to claims 1-16.

Accordingly, there is no single general inventive concept linking the prodrugs of formula II, characterised by the structural features of the compounds as a special technical feature, and the subject matters comprised under a., characterised by the special technical feature of the mutant mammalian enzyme.

In the present application no further technical feature(s) can be distinguished that can be regarded as a "special technical feature" involved in the technical relationship among the different inventions.

Consequently, the present application lacks unity of invention, and the different solutions not belonging to a common inventive concept are identified as the different subjects listed in the communication pursuant to Article 17(3)(a) PCT.

Each of the inventions listed is a distinct invention, characterised by its own special technical feature, defining the contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/210

MEANINGFUL SEARCH NOT POSSIBLE OR INCOMPLETE SEARCH

Incomplete search

In view of the definition of products by means of their biological, chemical and or pharmacological properties, the search has to be restricted for economic reasons.

The search was limited to the compounds for which pharmacological data was given and/or the compounds mentioned in the claims or examples.

(see guidelines, Part B, Chapter III, paragraph 3.6)

Partially searched claims: 1-5,12-19,27-38

International Application No. PCT/GB94/02483

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/210

Searching these different subjects would have caused major additional searching efforts.
Only the first subject was searched.
The attention of the Applicant is drawn to the possibility that further objections as to lack of unity of invention may be raised for the second subject, should that subject matter show a posteriori lack of unity of invention.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

information on patent family members

Inter. nal Application No
PCT/GB 94/02483

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