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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 98/26342

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC6: C12Q 1/68, C12N 5/00 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)		
IPC6: C12N, C12Q, G01N		
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)		
WPI, BIOSIS, EMBASE, MEDLINE, SCISEARCH		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 9402645 A1 (RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION), 3 February 1994 (03.02.94), See especially page 8, lines 8-13; page 8, line 23 - page 9, line 12; page 19, lines 13-15; page 20, lines 1-6 --	1-13,15-20, 24-27
A	DE 4445769 C1 (BIOCHROM KG), 9 November 1995 (09.11.95), See page 2, lines 3034 and page 6, lines 5-6 --	1
A	US 5357977 A (RUTH MICHELS), 25 October 1994 (25.10.94), See column 8, lines 42-47 and column 8, lines 55-65 --	1-13,15-20, 24-27
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 document but 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 "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 "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		Date of mailing of the international search report
24 June 1999		22. 07. 1999
Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority 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
		Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 98/26342

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5370128 A (SHARON R. WAINWRIGHT), 6 December 1994 (06.12.94), see especially abstract, column 3, line 65 - column 4, line 10, column 4, lines 21-25, column 5, lines 40-46 --	21-23
A	US 4465078 A (PATRICK R. MANNING ET AL), 14 August 1984 (14.08.84), see especially column 1, lines 7-10; column 1, line 63 - column 2, line 6; column 2, lines 14-32, lines 62-67 -- -----	21-23

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

national application No.

PCT/US 98/ 26342

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 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 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:

see FURTHER INFORMATION

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/ US 98/26342

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

In this application the following inventions have been found:

1. Claims: 1-20, 24-27

A cell or tissue collection medium (universal collection medium) wherein the cells or tissue in the medium can be analysed directly by both cytological and molecular methods.

2. Claims: 21-23

An article of manufacture for preserving a cell sample comprising a container and a lid fitting said container. The article also comprises a cell collecting device having an elongated member.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/US 98/26342

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9402645 A1	03/02/94	AU 4775293 A CN 1083113 A	14/02/94 02/03/94
DE 4445769 C1	09/11/95	US 5786337 A	28/07/98
US 5357977 A	25/10/94	AU 6817794 A CA 2161098 A EP 0697835 A US 5533517 A WO 9424942 A	21/11/94 10/11/94 28/02/96 09/07/96 10/11/94
US 5370128 A	06/12/94	NONE	
US 4465078 A	14/08/84	AU 1915483 A DK 446783 A IE 55968 B JP 59082835 A US 4788985 A	05/04/84 31/03/84 13/03/91 14/05/84 06/12/88