

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
5 June 2008 (05.06.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2008/067518 A3**

- (51) **International Patent Classification:**  
**B05D 7/00** (2006.01)      **B05D 3/10** (2006.01)  
**A61F 2/82** (2006.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**  
PCT/US2007/086038
- (22) **International Filing Date:**  
30 November 2007 (30.11.2007)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**  
11/565,065      30 November 2006 (30.11.2006)      US
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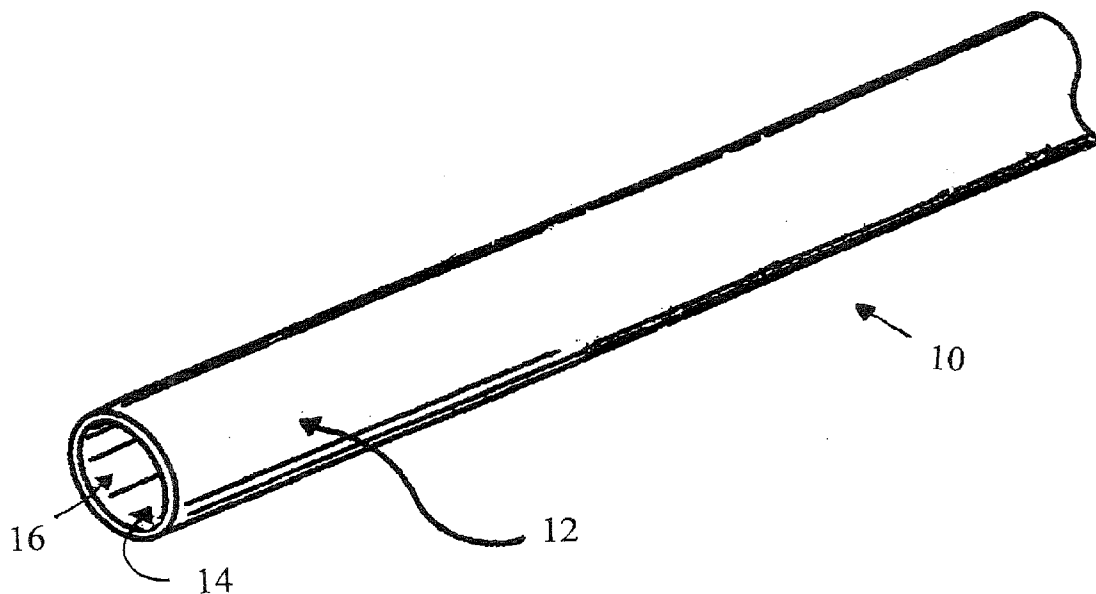
- (81) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available):** AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available):** ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** METHODS FOR IONICALLY CROSS-LINKING GELLAN GUM FOR THIN FILM APPLICATIONS AND MEDICAL DEVICES PRODUCED THEREFROM



**Figure 1**

(57) **Abstract:** Methods are provided for producing ionically cross-linked gellan gum coatings and thin films for diverse applications, including medical devices such as implantable vascular grafts, stent-grafts and/or stents.

WO 2008/067518 A3



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**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**  
11 December 2008

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 07/86038

| <p>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER<br/>                 IPC(8) - B05D 7/00, A61F 2/82, B05D 3/10 (2008.04)<br/>                 USPC - 623/1.13, 427/2.24, 427/2.25, 427/337<br/>                 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>   |  |   |           |  |                       |             |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |                    |
|---|--|---|-----------|--|-----------------------|-------------|--|--|---|--|----------------------|---|--|--------------------|
| <p>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</p> <p>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)<br/>                 USPC -- 623/1.13, 427/2.24, 427/2.25, 427/337</p> <p>Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched</p> <p>Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)<br/>                 PubWEST -- PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB; Dialog Classic Files ? 654, 652, 351, 349, 315, 6, 155, 35, 65; Google Patents; USPTO Web Page; Google Scholar; Entrez Pubmed; Search terms -- stent, graft, coating, gellan gum, ionic crosslinker, film, drign, woven stent, heparin, white coating</p>  |  |   |           |  |                       |             |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |                    |
| <p>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category*</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>X<br/>-<br/>Y</td> <td>US 2005/0158359 A1 (EPSTEIN et al.) 21 July 2005 (21.07.2005) para [0002], [0007], [0008], [0010], [0011], [0014], [0016],[0022], [0027], [0031], [0036], [0039], [0041], [0050]</td> <td>1, 3, 5, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 28, 36, 37, 40<br/>-----<br/>2, 4, 14, 25, 27, 34, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 2005/0220882 A1 (PRITCHARD et al.) 06 October 2005 (06.10.2005) para [0036], [0082], [0124], [0129], [0139], [0141], [0151]</td> <td>2, 4, 25, 27, 41, 42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 2003/0224033 A1 (LI et al.) 04 December 2003 (04.12.2003) para [0020], [0036], [0037], [0073], [0075]</td> <td>14, 34, 35, 38, 39</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>  |  |   | Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. | X<br>-<br>Y | US 2005/0158359 A1 (EPSTEIN et al.) 21 July 2005 (21.07.2005) para [0002], [0007], [0008], [0010], [0011], [0014], [0016],[0022], [0027], [0031], [0036], [0039], [0041], [0050] | 1, 3, 5, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 28, 36, 37, 40<br>-----<br>2, 4, 14, 25, 27, 34, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42 | Y | US 2005/0220882 A1 (PRITCHARD et al.) 06 October 2005 (06.10.2005) para [0036], [0082], [0124], [0129], [0139], [0141], [0151] | 2, 4, 25, 27, 41, 42 | Y | US 2003/0224033 A1 (LI et al.) 04 December 2003 (04.12.2003) para [0020], [0036], [0037], [0073], [0075] | 14, 34, 35, 38, 39 |
| Category*   | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   | Relevant to claim No.   |           |  |                       |             |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |                    |
| X<br>-<br>Y   | US 2005/0158359 A1 (EPSTEIN et al.) 21 July 2005 (21.07.2005) para [0002], [0007], [0008], [0010], [0011], [0014], [0016],[0022], [0027], [0031], [0036], [0039], [0041], [0050] | 1, 3, 5, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 28, 36, 37, 40<br>-----<br>2, 4, 14, 25, 27, 34, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42  |           |  |                       |             |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |                    |
| Y   | US 2005/0220882 A1 (PRITCHARD et al.) 06 October 2005 (06.10.2005) para [0036], [0082], [0124], [0129], [0139], [0141], [0151]   | 2, 4, 25, 27, 41, 42  |           |  |                       |             |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |                    |
| Y   | US 2003/0224033 A1 (LI et al.) 04 December 2003 (04.12.2003) para [0020], [0036], [0037], [0073], [0075]   | 14, 34, 35, 38, 39  |           |  |                       |             |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |                    |
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/></p>   |  |   |           |  |                       |             |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |                    |
| <p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"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)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"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</p> <p>"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</p> <p>"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</p> <p>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</p> |  |   |           |  |                       |             |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |                    |
| <p>Date of the actual completion of the international search<br/>                 24 September 2008 (24.09.2008)</p>  |  | <p>Date of mailing of the international search report<br/> <b>01 OCT 2008</b></p>   |           |  |                       |             |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |                    |
| <p>Name and mailing address of the ISA/US<br/>                 Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents<br/>                 P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450<br/>                 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201</p>  |  | <p>Authorized officer:<br/>                 Lee W. Young<br/>                 PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300<br/>                 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774</p> |           |  |                       |             |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |                    |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 07/86038

**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.: 6-13, 15-18, 21, 22 and 29-33  
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:

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 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.:

- 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.