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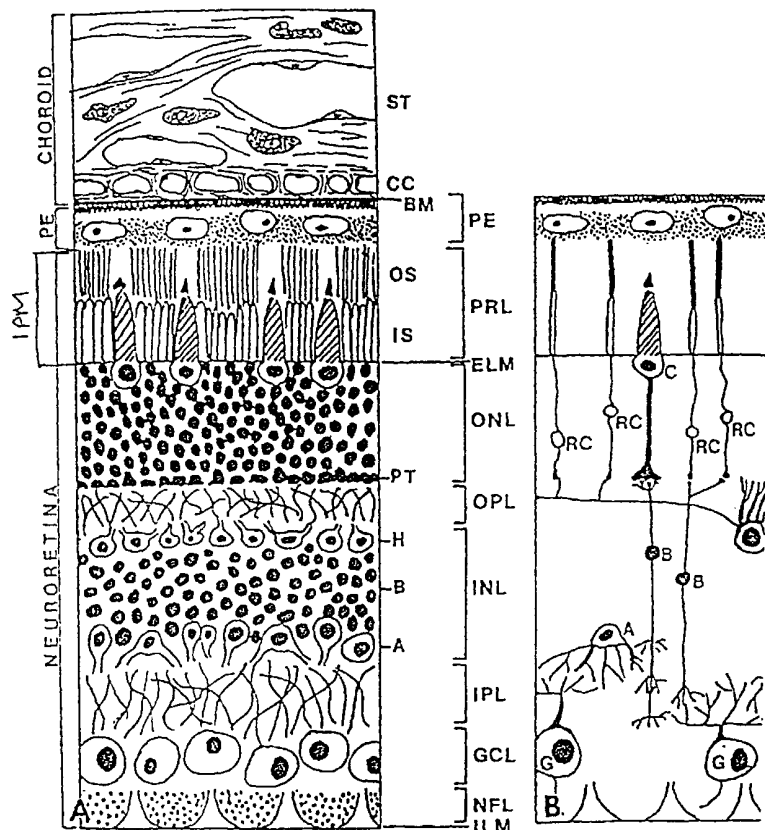
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPEUTICS FOR DRUSEN ASSOCIATED OCULAR DISORDERS**



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to methods for treating, preventing and diagnosing drusen-associated disorders.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G01N33/68

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 7 G01N A61K

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, MEDLINE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	ALLIKMETS R ET AL: "Mutation of the Stargardt Disease gene (ABCR) in Age-related Macular Degeneration" SCIENCE,US,AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE,, vol. 277, no. 277, 19 September 1997 (1997-09-19), pages 1805-1807, XP002099899 ISSN: 0036-8075 last sentence of abstract the whole document --- -/--	1-13



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in 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
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- "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

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 00/05858

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
T	MULLINS R F ET AL: "Drusen associated with aging and age-related macular degeneration contain proteins common to extracellular deposits associated with atherosclerosis, elastosis, amyloidosis, and dense deposit disease." FASEB JOURNAL, (2000 MAY) 14 (7) 835-46. , XP002145240 the whole document	1-27
X	HEIDENKUMMER H P ET AL: "'Surgical extraction of subretinal pseudotumors in age related macular degeneration. Clinical, morphologic and immunohistochemical results!. Chirurgische Extraktion subretinaler Pseudotumoren bei altersbezogener Makuladegeneration (AMD). Klinische, morphologische und immunohistochemische Ergebniss" OPHTHALMOLOGE, (1995 OCT) 92 (5) 631-9. , XP000900831 abstract	1-13
X	HAGEMAN G S ET AL: "Vitronectin is a constituent of ocular drusen and the vitronectin gene is expressed in human retinal pigmented epithelial cells." FASEB JOURNAL, (1999 MAR) 13 (3) 477-84. , XP002145241 the whole document	1-5
X	DETRICK B ET AL: "Class II antigen expression and gamma interferon modulation of monocytes and retinal pigment epithelial cells from patients with retinitis pigmentosa." CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY AND IMMUNOPATHOLOGY, (1985 AUG) 36 (2) 201-11. , XP000900830 abstract	1-5
X	GROSSNIKLAS H E ET AL: "Immunohistochemical and histochemical properties of surgically excised subretinal neovascular membranes in age-related macular degeneration." AMERICAN JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, (1992 OCT 15) 114 (4) 464-72. , XP000900850 abstract	1-5

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	ESSER P ET AL: "The significance of vitronectin in proliferative diabetic retinopathy." GRAEFES ARCHIVE FOR CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL OPHTHALMOLOGY, (1994 AUG) 232 (8) 477-81. , XP000911976 abstract	1-5
X	SOUIED E H ET AL: "The epsilon4 allele of the apolipoprotein E gene as a potential protective factor for exudative age-related macular degeneration." AMERICAN JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, (1998 MAR) 125 (3) 353-9. , XP000911975 abstract	1-5
X	KLAVER C C ET AL: "Genetic association of apolipoprotein E with age-related macular degeneration 'published erratum appears in Am J Hum Genet 1998 Oct;63(4):1252!'" AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HUMAN GENETICS, (1998 JUL) 63 (1) 200-6. , XP000911959 abstract	1-5

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/SA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.1

Although claims 12(second), 13(second), 14-23, 24 and 19(second) are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the IL-1, IL-3, IL-4, IL-6, IL-10, CSF, GM-CSF, M-CSF, FLT-3, TNF-a in relation to drusen associated ocular disease.

Continuation of Box I.1

Claims Nos.: 12(second), 13(second), 14-24 and 19(second)

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 1-13(first)

Present claims 1-4, 6,12 relate to a method defined only by reference to a result to be achieved: "diagnosis of drusen associated ocular disorders by a drusen associated marker"("Free beer claims").

The claims cover all methods achieving this result without any technical specification of the marker, which would be the essential feature of the invention. In addition, the application has not been found to provide support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT for any single biochemical marker fulfilling the requirement of acting as an effective diagnostic marker for a drusen associated ocular disorder. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT).

Consequently, the search has been restricted to documents revealing a relation between biochemical markers and drusen associated ocular disorders. In particular claims 9, 16, 20, 24 and 19(second) have been searched in detail in view of the ample support for dendritic cell involvement in the development of drusen.

With respect to claims 12(second), 13(second), 14, 15, 17-19, 21-23 it is noted that the agent as such is not defined by its own technical features and also represent a desideratum feature rendering a meaningful search over the whole range claimed impossible.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.