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- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/31245
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- 60/168,471 1 December 1999 (01.12.1999) US
- (71) Applicant: CHIRON CORPORATION [US/US]; 4560 Horton Street, Emeryville, CA 94608 (US).
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(54) Title: IMPROVED EXPRESSION OF HIV POLYPEPTIDES AND PRODUCTION OF VIRUS-LIKE PARTICLES

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the efficient expression of HIV polypeptides in a variety of cell types, including, but not limited to, mammalian, insect, and plant cells. Synthetic expression cassettes encoding the HIV Gag-containing polypeptides are described, as are uses of the expression cassettes in applications including DNA immunization, generation of packaging cell lines, and production of Env-, tat- or Gag-containing proteins. The invention provides methods of producing Virus-Like Particles (VLPs), as well as, uses of the VLPs including, but not limited to, vehicles for the presentation of antigens and stimulation of immune response in subjects to whom the VLPs are administered.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 99/31245

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C12N15/49 A61K48/00

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 7 C12N A61K C07K

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, STRAND, MEDLINE, BIOSIS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98 34640 A (MERCK & CO; SHIVER ET AL.) 13 August 1998 (1998-08-13) cited in the application claims 4,5; examples 3,4 ---	1-4
X	WO 97 31115 A (MERCK & CO; SHIVER ET AL.) 28 August 1997 (1997-08-28) page 54 nucleotides 856-995 example 11 ---	14, 26, 29, 32
X	WO 98 12207 A (GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION) 26 March 1998 (1998-03-26) Figure 1 nucleotides 1315-1458 page 13 -page 21 --- -/--	14, 26, 29, 32

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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- *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

10 August 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

22.08.00

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 99/31245

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	WO 99 41397 A (OXFORD BIOMEDICA LTD; KINGSMAN ET AL.) 19 August 1999 (1999-08-19) SEQ ID NO:2 example 2	1-3
E	WO 00 15819 A (CHILDRENS MEDICAL CENTER;GRAY ET AL.) 23 March 2000 (2000-03-23) SEQ ID NO:4,pHDMH	1-3
A	SCHNEIDER R ET AL: "Inactivation of the human immunodeficiency virus type 1 inhibitory elements allows rev-independent expression of gag and gag/protease and particle formation" JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY, vol. 71, no. 7, July 1997 (1997-07), pages 4892-4903, XP002137891 AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY US cited in the application figure 1	1-13, 36-53
A	ANDRE S ET AL: "INCREASED IMMUNE RESPONSE ELICITED BY DNA VACCINATION WITH A SYNTHETIC GP120 SEQUENCE WITH OPTIMIZED CODON USAGE" JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY,US,THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY, vol. 72, no. 2, 1 February 1998 (1998-02-01), pages 1497-1503, XP002073767 ISSN: 0022-538X cited in the application the whole document	14,36-53
A	LU S ET AL: "IMMUNOGENICITY OF DNA VACCINES EXPRESSING HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS TYPE 1 ENVELOPE GLYCOPROTEIN WITH AND WITHOUT DELETIONS IN THE V1/2 AND V3 REGIONS" AIDS RESEARCH AND HUMAN RETROVIRUSES,US,MARY ANN LIEBERT, vol. 14, no. 2, 20 January 1998 (1998-01-20), pages 151-155, XP000907375 ISSN: 0889-2229 the whole document	15,17,20

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 99/31245

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>STAMATATOS L AND CHENG-MAYER C: "An envelope modification that renders a primary, neutralization-resistant clade B HIV-1 isolate highly susceptible to neutralization by sera from other clades" JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY, vol. 72, no. 10, October 1998 (1998-10), pages 7840-7845, XP002139602 AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY US the whole document</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	15,17,20

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 99/31245

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:

Although claims 61-84 , 89 and 90 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 compound/composition.
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 additional sheet

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.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-13, 57 and 58 (all completely); 36-56, 60-90 (all partly)

Expression cassette encoding an HIV gag polypeptide, vectors and cells comprising said cassette, uses thereof to produce polypeptides or virus-like particles, methods of treating a subject using said vectors.

2. Claims: 14-35 and 59 (all completely); 36-56 and 60-90 (all partly)

As subject 1 but limited to expression cassettes encoding HIV env polypeptide.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 99/31245

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