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(54) Title: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR DIAGNOSING AND TREATING MELANOMA

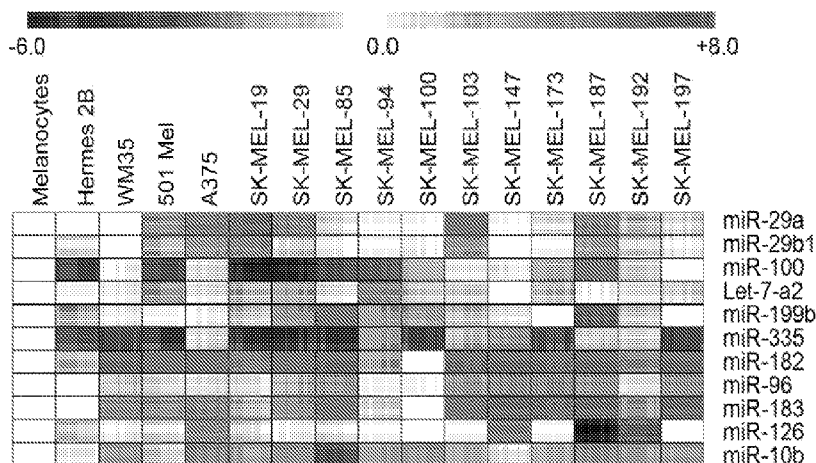


FIG. 1A

(57) Abstract: Described herein are compositions and methods for the diagnosis, prognosis, prevention and treatment of melanoma or melanoma associated symptoms. The compositions are microRNA molecules associated with melanoma, as well as various nucleic acid molecules relating thereto or derived therefrom.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER*A61K 48/00(2006.01)i, A61P 35/00(2006.01)i, A61K 31/7088(2006.01)i, A61K 31/7105(2006.01)i*

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 A61K 48/00, A61P 35/00, A61K 31/7088, A61K 31/7105

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)

PubMed, CA, Delphion "miRNA-182* OR miR-182 OR miRNA-96* OR miR-96* OR miRNA-183* OR miR-183*) AND melanoma"

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	MOLNAR, V. et al. "Changes in miRNA Expression in Solid Tumors: And miRNA Profiling in Melanomas." Sem. Cancer Biol. 15 Jan. 2008, Vol.18, No.2, Pages 111-122. See the whole document	14, 15
A	GAUR, A. et al. "Characterization of MicroRNA Expression Levels and Their Biological Correlates in Human Cancer Cell Lines." Cancer Res. 15 Mar. 2007, Vol.67, No.6, Pages 2456-2468. See the whole document.	14, 15
A	NAVARRO, A. et al. "MicroRNA Expression Profiling in Classic Hodgkin Lymphoma." Blood. 1 Mar. 2008, Vol.111, No.5, Pages 2825-2832. See the whole document.	14, 15
A	BANDRES, E. et al. "Identification by Real-Time PCT of 13 Mature MicroRNAs Differentially Expressed in Colorectal Cancer and Non-Tumoral Tissues." Mol. Cancer. 19 Jul. 2006, Vol.5, Article No.29. See the whole document.	14, 15

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. 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 application or patent 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 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

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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.: 1-13, 16-19
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
The subject matter of claims 1-13, 16-19 pertains to methods for treatment or diagnosis of the human diseases, thus relates to a subject matter which this International Searching Authority is not required, under Article 17(2)(a)(i) of the PCT and Rule 39.1(iv) of the Regulations under the PCT to search.
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 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 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 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.