(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
3 May 2001 (03.05.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/30815 A1

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: C07K 14/18, C12N 15/51, C07K 16/10, A61K 39/29, A61P 31/14

(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP00/10499

(22) International Filing Date: 25 October 2000 (25.10.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

99870225.2	27 October 1999 (27.10.1999)	EP
60/169,288	7 December 1999 (07.12.1999)	US

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **INNOGENETICS N.V.** [BE/BE]; Industriepark Zwijnaarde 7, Box 4, B-9052 Ghent (BE).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **BOSMAN, Alfons** [BE/BE]; Hulst 165, B-1745 Opwijk (BE). **DEPLA, Erik** [BE/BE]; Burgstraat 58, B-9070 Destelbergen (BE). **MAERTENS, Geert** [BE/BE]; Zilversparrenstraat 64, B-8310 Brugge (BE).

(74) Agents: **BRANTS, Johan, Philippe, Emile** et al.; De Clercq, Brants & Partners cv, E. Gevaertdreef 10 a, B-9830 Sint-Martens-Latem (BE).

(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *With international search report.*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 01/30815 A1

(54) Title: REDOX REVERSIBLE HCV PROTEINS WITH NATIVE-LIKE CONFORMATION

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to HCV proteins in which cysteine residues are reversibly protected during purification. Eventually, this purification procedure results in HCV proteins with biological activity and a native-like protein conformation, which present corresponding epitopes. The present invention pertains also to drug screening methods using these HCV proteins, and diagnostic and therapeutic applications, such as vaccines and drugs.