

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
21 December 2007 (21.12.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/144140 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

C07K 14/00 (2006.01) **C07K 1/00** (2006.01)
C08G 69/10 (2006.01) **A61K 47/48** (2006.01)

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(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2007/005172

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(22) International Filing Date: 12 June 2007 (12.06.2007)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

06012351.0 15 June 2006 (15.06.2006) EP
60/813,787 15 June 2006 (15.06.2006) US

(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, 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.

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(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

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.

(54) Title: A PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF POLY-ALFA-GLUTAMIC ACID AND DERIVATIVES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to an improved process for the preparation of poly- α -glutamic acids which comprises the polymerisation of tertiary γ -esters of α -glutamic acid N-carboxy anhydride with appropriate solvents and initiators, followed by acid hydrolysis of the resulting poly- α -glutamic acid- γ -ester. The process is particularly advantageous in that it allows to carefully control the molecular weight of the resulting poly- α -glutamic acid. The invention also relates to poly- α -glutamic acids capped at the amino terminus with carboxylic acids or amino acids and to a process for the preparation thereof.

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